

# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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## THE LORDS AND COMMONS OF THE FUTURE.

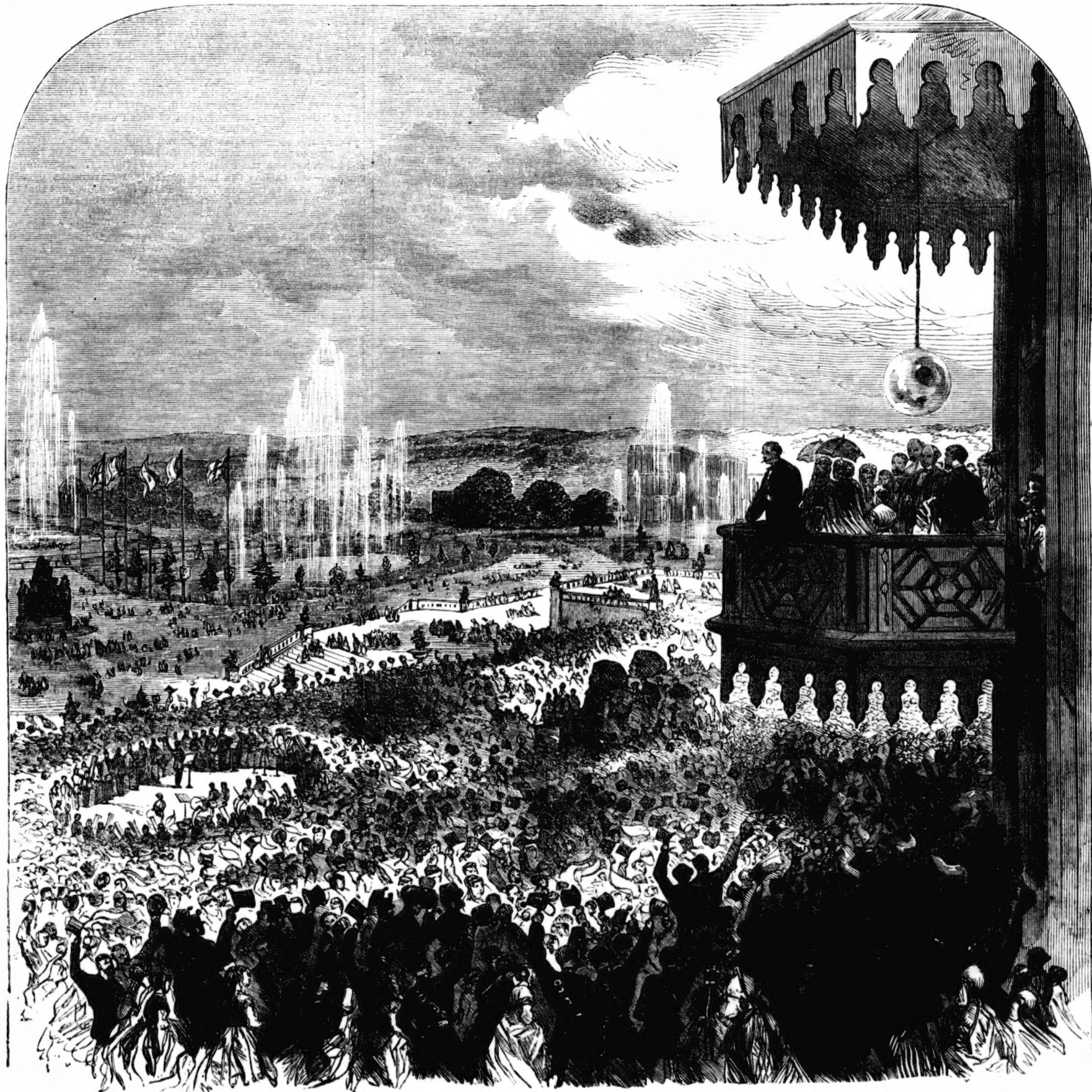
WHAT will be the relative positions of the Houses of Lords and Commons in the future is a curious problem, and one that is already beginning to excite attention. It has not been without difficulty that the two Houses have been kept from coming occasionally into collision in the past; they are in a decidedly antagonistic position at present; and how they are to get on smoothly in the future is a puzzle. If, as there is every reason to expect, the Commons' House shall become more democratic than ever, and if the members of the Upper Chamber, as is to be feared, continue as obstinately aristocratic and obstructive in their notions, it is

difficult to see how the affairs of the country are to be administered and the Queen's Government is to be carried on.

There will probably be a large infusion of new blood into the People's Chamber under the operation of Mr. Disraeli's Reform Bill and the further changes that are sure to follow. It may be—it is more than likely—that that new blood will be rather intolerant of opposition and disinclined to acquiescence in the rejection or mutilation of its measures by the hereditary legislators of the land. In that case, deadlocks in legislation and collisions between the two Houses are sure to occur, unless the Lords consent to subside

into a mere court of revision and registration of the decrees of the Commons; and there are indications that some at least of the Peers are not disposed to accept this rôle.

Of course, it is just possible that the contemplated difficulty may not arise; that the new constituencies—the householders in boroughs and £12-occupiers in counties—may be more conservative than the classes who now enjoy the privilege of choosing our legislators, and that, consequently, the new Parliament, in its several branches, may be more harmonious than ever. This, we say, is just possible; but it is exceedingly improbable—at



RECEPTION OF GENERAL SIR ROBERT NAPIER AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.



least in future years, whatever may be the result of the immediately impending election, for the democratic element in the popular opinion of the country is sure to be a growing quantity; and if, as is all but universally anticipated, the House of Commons of the future shall be more democratic than it has been in the past or is in the present, then it will be absolutely necessary that the other institutions of the country should be brought into harmony with it. How this is to be accomplished, is well worthy of both the immediate and the earnest consideration of statesmen and publicists.

The question of the future, then, is not, What will the Lords do? but, What shall be done with the Lords? A purely democratic House of Commons and a purely aristocratic House of Lords are not likely to get on well together; and the problem to be solved is by what means can their action be harmonised without sacrificing the independence or losing the services of either. The plan that meets with most favour with those who have given thought to the matter is to make the Upper Chamber in some sense a representative body as well as the Lower—that is, to adopt the plan of creating life peerages mooted by Lord Palmerston some years ago; and, by sending to the House of Lords men who have done good service to the country in various walks of life, who have acquired experience and skill in affairs and are yet not influenced by hereditary notions or a desire to maintain the privileges of a separate class, whose sympathies will be with the popular voice and who shall have no interest adverse thereto, so to leave the whole lump of the Upper House as that it shall be brought into harmony with the other branch of the Legislature as well as with public opinion and feeling.

That some such plan must be adopted no one who gives the matter any consideration can doubt. Let us put a case. Suppose, as is generally anticipated, the new House of Commons shall begin by ejecting the present Government from office, and follow that up by passing, under the auspices of the Ministers of the Crown, a bill disestablishing and disendowing the Irish Church (and if the one event occurs the other is certain to follow); and supposing, further, that the Lords shall do as they have done with the Suspensory Bill—reject the measure—what is then to happen? Are the responsible advisers of the Crown and the representatives of the people to submit to be dictated to and thwarted in a policy they deem essential to the well-being of the Commonwealth by an irresponsible, obstinate, and obstructive body, who obey only the prompting of their own prejudices and the dictum of one leading man among them? Are the Commons to go on passing the bill year after year, and the Lords as constantly rejecting it, at the bidding of Lord Derby, or whoever may succeed to his influence and power? Must not one side yield? Which side ought that to be? And how must the yielding be brought about? No doubt, the Lords would have to succumb in the long run, on the Irish Church as well as on other questions, as they have had to do heretofore. But it would be exceedingly inconvenient that coercion should have to be applied to them on every question of importance; and some method must be devised of bringing harmony of action into the legislative machinery, under the new state of things about to be inaugurated, without everlastingly throwing it out of gear. And for that purpose no better plan has yet been suggested than that of peerages for life; which would have this further advantage, that the country would thereby obtain the services in a legislative capacity of men both able and willing to attend to its affairs, instead of leaving them, as at present, in the hands of persons the great majority of whom are neither capable nor disposed to do the nation's work, and who have no other qualification for the position they occupy than the mere accident of birth.

We hear continual complaints of the paucity of attendance in the Upper House, the great bulk of the members of which cannot be induced to attend in their places and give heed to the merits of the subjects discussed. They can only be got to "show" on great occasions, when they are whipped up to serve party purposes. In ordinary circumstances, the legislation of the nation, so far as the House of Lords is concerned, is conducted by from twenty to thirty individuals—often not so many; and if true wisdom is only to be found in a multitude of counsellors, clearly it need not be sought for in the House of Lords. It is not surprising, however, that hereditary lawmakers should shirk their work, for conscious incapacity and ignorance of the matters in hand may make even lordlings averse to pronouncing upon them. It may be freely admitted that the bulk of the Peers who do attend to business are men of great ability and large experience, and that they often do excellent service to the nation, especially in regard to private-bill legislation; but their numbers are too limited, and the good they do in one direction is not unfrequently more than counterbalanced by the obstruction their usually absentee colleagues cause in others. By the adoption of the plan of life peerages, this difficulty as to numbers might be rectified, as well as that touching capacity: by increasing the number of working members in the House, we should secure both diligence and ability. Moreover, there are many men who, having attained eminence in various walks of public life, might do the country some further service as legislators, but who have neither the inclination to undergo the ordeal of popular election to the Commons nor private means sufficient to endow hereditary peerages in the Lords. Life peerages would exactly suit the tempers and fortunes of those men, who would certainly make much better recruits for the Upper House than

the dull-brained but broad-acred squires who are ordinarily the subjects of new creations. We have lately seen several of this last-named order of men made peers, and we are threatened, it seems, with another batch of the same sort. Now, it is impossible to expect any good from men whose sole merit is that they have steadily voted, and shouted, "True blue" or "Genuine buff," as the case may be, for a certain period of years in the Lower House; whose sole claim to distinction is that they have been faithful party hacks, but who have neither intellect, nor judgment, nor discretion to recommend them. These are not the persons to harmonise the working of a democratic House of Commons with that of an aristocratic House of Lords; whereas men of energy, capacity, and experience in affairs, whose sympathies and ideas would be to a great degree *au courant* with the times, and yet not extreme—such men, in short, as life-peerages would secure, and to whom such a distinction would be a legitimate object of ambition, would be, in all likelihood, precisely the persons to secure the object in view.

#### SIR ROBERT NAPIER AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

As mentioned in our last week's Number, a grand fête in honour of Sir Robert Napier, and to celebrate the success which attended our arms in the Abyssinian expedition, was held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, July 8. The General, together with his staff, had been invited, and had notified his intention of being present; and as in addition to this a ballad concert of no ordinary pretensions had been announced, there was a very large attendance. It was thought desirable that the *vox populi* should be heard in appreciation of the energy and ability exhibited by Sir Robert Napier in bringing a campaign of such unusual difficulties to a successful issue, and hence the admission was fixed at one shilling to enable everyone to assist in the demonstration. As early as one o'clock numbers had taken up their position in the unreserved seats in the central transept; and the best situations, both for hearing the concert and seeing the "Hero of Magdala," were very soon appropriated. At two o'clock there was a display of the fountains, and Sir Robert Napier, having arrived a short time previously, was conducted to the balcony overlooking the gardens. It was not long before he was recognised by the people below, and the band of the Royal Artillery at the same time striking up "See, the conquering hero comes," there was some genuine applause afforded him from the comparative few who were outside the palace, which was repeated when he came to the front and bowed. As soon as the fountains had stopped playing, the party were conducted to a private room, where an elegant déjeuner was spread out. By this time the sight-seers were arriving in large numbers. Every unreserved seat was taken; the reserved seats down the centre of the transept were also full, while directly underneath the Royal boxes a number of soldiers and volunteers had stationed themselves, the variety of their uniforms presenting a very pleasing effect. Part of the large orchestra was occupied by the bands of the Coldstream Guards and Royal Artillery, both of which showed a very full muster, the remainder of the space not required for the musicians being occupied by visitors. The entry of Sir Robert Napier shortly after four o'clock was the signal for a burst of hearty cheering, the whole audience rising *en masse*, and it was again and again repeated as he acknowledged the compliment. The two bands, accompanied by the grand organ, at the same time played "See, the conquering hero comes;" and the effect of this, together with the surrounding scene, produced an effect seldom witnessed, and not easily to be forgotten. Sir Robert Napier was shown into the Royal box, the two side boxes being occupied by various members of his staff, gentlemen, and several ladies. Amongst those present, in addition to the General and Lady Napier, were Major-General Baker, Major-General Boileau, Major-General Scott, Major Scott, Colonel Parich, Colonel Milward, Captain Holland, Captain Napier, A.D.C., Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., &c.

The great musical feature of the afternoon was a new ballad, composed in honour of Sir Robert Napier, by Mr. Benedict, called "England yet," which was exquisitely sung by Mr. Sims Reeves. The air is a very pleasing one, and the great tenor, who was in fine voice, threw all his power into his rendering of it, gaining a tumultuous encore, which he was obliged to comply with. "God Save the Queen," the solos sung by Mlle. Carola, Mdme. Louisa Vinning, and Signor Foli, accompanied by the united bands and the grand organ, brought the first part of the concert to a close shortly before half-past five o'clock. Sir Robert Napier, who then left the building, was again loudly cheered on retiring, and had to appear in the front of the box and bow several times in acknowledgment.

**CARDINAL CULLEN ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES.**—Cardinal Cullen has become a subscriber to the Liberal Franchise Association, which is under process of organisation in the Irish capital. Accompanying the donation, His Eminence sent a letter in which he described the essential qualification of the candidates to whom the electors of Dublin should give their support. He held it to be requisite that the gentlemen seeking their suffrages should show a determination to "disendow the Protestant Establishment, the source of all our evils; to oppose educational monopolies; to regulate, on principles of justice, the relations between landlord and tenant; and to watch over the interests of the poor, imprisoned and condemned to a melancholy fate in our workhouses."

**A YOUNG WOMAN'S CLUB.**—A number of ladies and gentlemen propose to form a club for the young women employed in London who have no relatives or friends to whose houses they can resort on Sunday or during the leisure of the week-day evenings. It is suggested that at these institutions young women shall be free from all interference, but where, at the same time, the management shall be such as to secure the members from evil influences. While there should be perfect independence, it is maintained that opportunities should, at the same time, be afforded for the cultivation of elevating pursuits and a refined taste. At a club such as is now proposed the members would find refreshments of all kinds, good in quality and moderate in price; means of rest, of writing, of society, and of access to books and periodicals. It is held that such places are especially needed on Sundays, in consequence of the custom which prevails in many establishments of requiring the young women to leave the house on that day. For those who have no homes in London this is obviously a very serious evil. To further this object a meeting is to be held at the School of Art, Newman-street, on Monday afternoon next, at three o'clock.

**ORANGE DEMONSTRATIONS.**—The Orangemen have kept high festival this year. Open-air meetings and processions, with banners and bands of music, as usual, were held, on Monday, in various places in the neighbourhood of Belfast. The day passed off without any disturbance. The proceedings were chiefly confined to protesting against the Party Processions Act. There was a crowded gathering of the "brethren," in the Round-room of the Rotundo, on Monday night. A number of loyal sentiments were spoken to—the principal orators being Mr. Johnston and the Rev. Dr. Drew, who came from the north for the purpose of attending. Mr. Johnston announced that he had the pleasure of addressing 40,000 men that day, at Waringstown, near Lurgan. From the church towers he saw all in the north Orange flags flying; and along the roads might have been heard those heart-inspiring strains the "Protestant Boys" and the "Boyne Water." For one Orangeman who went out on the last July 12 three went out on this; and their motto would be "Bangor and no surrender!" Many, in their ignorance, had talked of an Orange revival; but Orangism never was dead, and was undying. After recounting its glorious memories, he observed that they knew the way to the Boyne, and were ready, if necessary, to cross it. There was not a body of men so ill-used as the Orangemen of Ireland; but, please God, they were able to right themselves. They had true hearts and strong right hands; they had votes for members of Parliament, and would demand that justice should be done. As the Orangemen were marching through Monaghan, on Monday evening, a mob assailed them, and they had to take refuge in a house, which was attacked and all the windows demolished. The Orangemen fired and wounded four persons. The Riot Act was read, and the police remained under arms. Some disturbances, caused by Orange processions, have occurred in the north of England.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

In the Legislative Body M. Olivier called attention to the proximate meeting of an Ecumenical Council. He expressed his opinion that the State ought to throw no obstacles in the way of the publication in France of the Papal bull convoking the council or of the departure of the French Bishops for Rome, but he thought it advisable for the Government to abstain from taking any part in the council. In conclusion, he argued that the Government should prepare a law for the separation of Church and State. M. Baroche, Minister of Public Worship, in reply, stated that the Government pursued a double rule of conduct—namely, the Concordat and the principles of '89. It had not yet decided anything with regard to the question whether France should be represented at the Ecumenical Council or not, and whether the decisions of the council should be totally or partially admitted in France. With reference to the separation of Church and State, M. Baroche said it was necessary to leave time to solve this delicate question.

M. Paulin Limayrac is dead. A terrible fire broke out at the central market, called the Halles, at ten o'clock on Friday night week, and originated in one of the cellars where there was a quantity of butter, 160,000 lb. of which, it is said, were consumed by the flames. M. Pietri, the Prefect of Police; Generals Schoumavin and Schramm, several officers, and large bodies of troops were soon upon the ground assisting the firemen. One of the latter, a corporal named Hartmann, was taken out of the flames insensible, and died next morning in the hospital. Half a dozen other persons were more or less seriously injured. The loss to egg, butter, and poultry merchants is estimated at 300,000 fr.; and that of the city of Paris for buildings destroyed at 600,000 fr.

### SPAIN.

The Duke de Montpensier and the Infanta, his wife, have been banished from Spain for their supposed complicity with the Liberal revolutionary movement now seething in that country. The Duke has always sympathised with the Liberal party, and has often given good advice to his infatuated sister-in-law, Queen Isabella. One account says that the Duke and Duchess were put on board a ship at Seville to be conveyed, it was supposed, to England; while another states that they were to cross the frontier on Tuesday and proceed to Lisbon. The Generals arrested were at once sent away from the capital and some of them hurried off to Cadix and put on board ship for the Canary Islands. Marshal Serrano, Duke de la Torre, and General Dominguez, his cousin, are to have their residence in Orotava, one of the towns of the largest of the Canaries; General Dulce in Laguna; and General Serrano, a relative of the Marshal, in Palmas, all towns of the same island. General Zabala is sent to Lugo, in Galicia; General Cordova to Soria, in old Castile. Brigadier-General Letorres takes up his quarters in the same province; and Generals Echague and Caballeros de Roda are shipped off to the Balearic Islands. Echague, it appears, was arrested in San Sebastian, of which town he is a native. Most, if not all the persons whose names are mentioned, belonged to the party known as the "Union Liberal," the head of which was the late Marshal O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan.

Very little seems yet to be known respecting the conspiracy. According to one account, it was to have broken out on the 9th, and its object was the overthrow of the Ministry. According to another—and this is the more generally received—the dynasty itself was to be swept away. The Paris *Liberté* declares that the insurrection was, and is, perfectly organised, and only awaits a favourable moment to break out. Guns and other weapons have been introduced into the country, but the authorities cannot tell where to find them; and the *Liberté* gives even the inscriptions on the hidden flags. The *Gazette de France* has heard that the Duchess de Montpensier was to be placed on the throne, and that a good understanding was at once to be effected with Prussia, to whom overtures had already been made.

### PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese Cabinet has resigned. The resignation was caused by the unanimous refusal of the Council of State to agree to close the Chambers until November. The King has called in the Duke de Loule to form a new Ministry.

### ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies has passed a vote of 3,000,000 lire for the armament of the iron-clad fleet and the conversion of the marine rifles into breech-loaders. During the debate the Minister of Marine stated that the Italian iron-clad fleet was in perfect order, and left nothing to be desired. The Government had determined to arm the fleet with Armstrong guns.

The marriage of Menotti Garibaldi to Italia Bedeschini, which has just taken place at Bologna, seems to have awakened considerable enthusiasm in that city. According to the *Diritto*, the people came forth in crowds to cheer the young couple; addresses were presented to them; and music was played in their honour throughout the day. In the evening, when they went to the theatre, "Garibaldi's Hymn" was called for, and given several times, amid cheers for Garibaldi himself, Rome, Italy, and the newly-married pair. Immediately afterwards Menotti Garibaldi set out for Caprera. Garibaldi, owing to ill-health, was unable to be present at the marriage ceremony.

The police have arrested twenty-five Mazzinians from the Romagna. Advances from Rome state that the patrols have been strengthened in that city and its environs. Cardinal Antonelli is suffering greatly from gout. The camp will be continued at Rocca del Papa, notwithstanding the prevalence of sickness and discontent among the troops.

### PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia arrived at Ems on Sunday. His Majesty was received with enthusiasm by the inhabitants, and was welcomed on his arrival by the heads of the civil and military departments. At the chief railway stations en route the King met with a similar reception, and at Limburg he was welcomed by the Bishop of the town.

At an international reaping and mowing machine competition which has been held in Berlin prizes have been awarded to the following firms:—Samuelson and Co., Banbury—first prize for reaping-machines; Zoltjes Bergemann, of Leipzig—second prize for ditto. Kearsley and Co., Ripon—first prize for hand-reapers; Samuelson and Co., Banbury—second prize for ditto. Kearsley, Ripon—first prize for grass-mowing machines; Samuelson and Co., Banbury—second prize for ditto.

### AUSTRIA.

Negotiations are in progress between Austria and Serbia for the conclusion of a treaty with regard to administrative affairs, and in particular for the establishment of Consular Courts.

A treaty of commerce between Austria and Switzerland was signed on Wednesday.

### SOUTH GERMANY.

It is stated that the negotiations between the South German States in reference to a military commission have been placed upon the following basis:—Each State will appoint one member of the commission, which is to meet at Munich, the Bavarian commissioner presiding. The votes of the majority are to decide the resolutions proposed. The chief object to be kept in view is the establishment of a South German defensive system harmonising with that of the Northern Confederation. The South German fortresses are to be placed under the charge of the commission, which will consult with the authorities upon all military questions.

The Convention in reference to the future garrison of Ulm has been ratified both by Bavaria and Württemberg.

### SERBIA.

Prince Alexander Karageorgewich has been cited to appear before the local court of justice at Belgrade on the 21st inst.,



being charged with complicity in the late assassination of Prince Michael.

#### THE UNITED STATES.

The Democratic Convention have nominated Mr. Horatio Seymour, formerly Governor of New York, for President, and General Frank P. Blair for Vice-President. Both gentlemen have accepted the nomination.

President Johnson had issued a proclamation (as already announced by cable) granting a free pardon to all who had participated in the rebellion, except those now under indictments for treason-felony. The persons pardoned are to have their property restored to them, except such as they have been legally divested of under the laws of the United States.

The Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Representatives have reported the bill taxing the interest on Government bonds 10 per cent; but they say in their report that they unanimously disapprove the measure, as being calculated to injure the national credit and character.

A bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives to divide Texas into two States.

In Florida an order had been issued by General Meade abolishing military rule, and the civil Governor had resumed his functions. In Louisiana the Legislature had suspended the test oath to officials, and admitted the Conservative members to seats. The new Constitution had been defeated in Mississippi by a large majority. The North Carolina and Louisiana Legislatures have ratified the Constitutional amendment changing the basis of representation.

#### MEXICO.

The brief announcement made by the Atlantic cable, some days since, that the port of Mazatlan, in Mexico, had been blockaded by a British frigate, has now some additional light thrown upon it by accounts published in the New York journals of the 4th inst. It seems that on June 20 the Mexican authorities seized and examined Captain Bridge and the paymaster of the Chanticleer on suspicion of smuggling specie. Captain Bridge demanded an apology, which was refused, and he thereupon threatened to bombard the town, but refrained from doing so at the intercession of the American Consul, and sent to the British Admiral at Victoria for instructions, Mazatlan meanwhile remaining blockaded by the Chanticleer.

#### INDIA.

At the sixth opium sale the prices realised 175 rupees per chest above Mr. Massey's estimate.

The question of an Indian gold currency is exciting much attention. It is stated that the Government, as a tentative measure, intend to admit English and Australian sovereigns at their full commercial value, without, however, declaring them a legal tender.

**RESCUE FROM DROWNING BY A DOG.**—A few days ago a young lad, a son of Mr. Dunlop, of Aughanloo, near Newtownlimavady, Ireland, went to the river Roe to bathe. He got carried beyond his depth, and, being unable to swim, he sank to the bottom. There were only a number of little boys present, who were unable to render him any assistance. He would have been drowned but for a Newfoundland dog, who, seeing the little fellow sink, jumped into the water, dived, and, catching him by the hair of the head, succeeded in bringing him to the bank, and thus saved him from drowning.

**DESTRUCTION OF EIGHTEEN COTTAGES BY FIRE.**—On Sunday morning a fire broke out in a row of thatched cottages in Bury-street, Stowmarket, Suffolk, by which no fewer than eighteen cottages were destroyed and eighty men, women, and children rendered homeless and houseless. The fire was caused by sparks falling from the chimney of the house occupied by a man named Kellog, on the east side of the street. A lively east wind carried the flames in an oblique direction across the street, and thirteen cottages opposite also became ignited. The fire occurred at the time of Divine service, and an alarm was given at all the places of worship. Service was at once stopped, and thousands hurried to the spot. Meantime, messengers were despatched to neighbouring villages for engines, and everything was done that could be done to stay the flames; but the wind was high, the cottages were old and dry, and water for some time was comparatively scarce. It was three in the afternoon before the fire was got at all under. A meeting was held in the afternoon, and a liberal subscription entered into for the sufferers.

**THE WEATHER.**—There has at length been a break in the continuous run of dry weather which has lasted so long, and which threatened to prove of serious injury to the crops. In London last Saturday night there was a thunderstorm less violent than that of May 29, but accompanied by some welcome rain, which fell heavily for some time. In the course of Sunday occasional showers fell, and shortly after midnight a second thunderstorm burst over the metropolis. The peals were louder and the lightning more vivid than on Saturday night, and rain once more fell heavily. During the storm, which raged at Brighton with considerable severity on Sunday night, the lightning struck the residence of Mr. Savage, chemist, near the Queen's Park. The chimney-stack on the gable was almost destroyed; thence the lightning glanced off and pierced the roof near the eaves, where it entered Mr. Savage's bed-room, and expended its force upon the fire-grate, which, with the surrounding brickwork, it smashed into pieces. About half-past seven on Sunday morning the tower of St. Peter's Church was struck by lightning. One of the pinnacles was completely shattered, and a considerable portion of the lead roof torn up and displaced, some of the rubbish being forced down into the belfry and clock tower. The building was used for Divine service as usual on Sunday; but only one of the three entrances was opened. A great deal of rain fell in the town and neighbourhood.

**THE WIMBLEDON MEETING.**—The ninth annual meeting of the National Rifle Association commenced on Monday. The heavy rains and vivid lightning of the preceding night had greatly reduced the heat, and Wimbledon-common showed a very different aspect from that which it presented on Saturday. The shooting commenced as early as half-past nine o'clock and continued until it became too dark for the competitors to see. The number of entries for the various prizes was unusually large, if not in fact larger than ever it has yet been; and the shooting was exceedingly creditable. No better proof of the vitality of the volunteer movement can be afforded than the growing popularity and success of the Wimbledon meeting. The camp had, on Wednesday, a very narrow escape from destruction, and many of its occupants probably from death. Shortly before mid-day the grass running up to the entrance of the ammunition-tent was discovered to be on fire and burning rapidly. It is supposed that a smoker had thrown down a lighted fuzee on to the dry grass, which immediately ignited, and in a very brief space threatened to be most destructive. After a short but terribly exciting suspense, however, the fire was got under before it reached the tent, in which there were several thousand pounds of gunpowder stored. The chief interest attaching to the shooting was the commencement of the contest for the Queen's prize. The first stage of this competition consists of ranges of 200, 300, and 600 yards, and is open to all volunteers, the highest shot being entitled to the silver medal of the association, the silver badge, and £60 in money. Other "next best" shots take money prizes varying in amount. In the second stage the sixty best shots in the first stage are brought together in ranges of 800, 900, and 1000 yards, and he who makes the highest score takes the most valuable prize and the gold medal of the association—thus becoming the hero of the season.

**PRESENTATION TO COLONEL MILWARD.**—On Saturday evening last a public presentation of congratulatory addresses was made to Colonel Milward R.A., Assistant Director of Ordnance, the officer who had charge of the mountain battery at the siege of Magdala, and who was subsequently the bearer of King Theodore's crown and official despatches to the Queen. The presentation took place at Colonel Milward's residence, Plumstead-common, in the presence of Mrs. Milward and family, and formed an interesting and gratifying scene. The chief spokesman was the Rev. J. A. M'Allister, Vicar of Plumstead, Colonel Milward, in his reply, disclosed any special merit or prominent part in the Abyssinian expedition. Every man engaged in the campaign felt it his duty to put a shoulder to the wheel, and simply did his duty. They had the advantage of having in the expedition one of the greatest and ablest Generals any age had produced, and it was to his example of indomitable perseverance and bravery, the firmness with which he maintained discipline, and the encouragement he offered to the troops to surmount difficulties altogether unexpected, that England owed the success of the Abyssinian campaign. The English and native troops cheerfully ascended mountains and descended precipices enough to appal the stoutest hearts; they were content to bear privations and undergo toils by day and night, inspired by the confidence felt in the ability and determination of their chief. The expedition was doubtless beset with difficulties; but difficulties were to be encountered, not feared. The Abyssinian troops had endeavoured to put forth efforts commensurate with the difficulties and dangers of the occasion and the importance of the object for which they had to contend; and it was gratifying to find, on their return home, that their efforts had met the approval of their Queen and country. A soldier's first duty was to earn the approval of his commanding officer; and, next, that of his fellow-citizens; and when he got both he had cause for thankfulness. After the presentation, Colonel Milward showed the gentlemen present several Abyssinian relics, brought from Magdala.

#### WINDOW GARDENING IN WESTMINSTER.

We last week noticed the third annual show of the Society for Encouraging Window Gardening in Westminster; and we this week publish an Engraving representing the chairman, the Earl of Shaftesbury, addressing the competitors at the distribution of prizes. The show was larger and the plants of a better description than heretofore. The prizes for fuchsias, geraniums, annuals, ferns, and other plants—awarded in three classes, to working men and women, domestic servants, and children in parochial, national, infant, Sunday, and ragged schools—were handed, with a kindly word to each successful competitor, by the noble chairman. His Lordship then addressed the meeting in congratulation on the moral and social improvement of Westminster in the last twenty years, and urged the importance of window gardening as an especially domestic pursuit. It was now more than ever essential to instil pure thoughts and tastes into the minds of the young, who stood in need of wholesome stimulants to counteract the sensual and impure literature which was unhappily so prevalent, so tempting, and so injurious. Nothing could more conduce to humanise and civilise the young than bringing them in contact with the works of nature; and a window garden, with the hope of a prize in the annual exhibition, afforded perpetual occupation, renovation of thought, and food for the mind and the imagination. If by supporting societies of this kind the rich would evince their sympathy with the poor, that sympathy would be repaid by trust, and confidence would tend to remove many doubts and dispel many fears. The Dean of Westminster proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury, which was given with three hearty cheers; and, after a few appropriate words from Canon Conway, who observed that the society was supported by voluntary contributions, the proceedings terminated. Lady Augusta Stanley handed to each exhibitor a little pamphlet on "Window Gardening," issued by the Ladies' Sanitary Association in connection with the Social Science Association. The juvenile exhibitors were regaled with tea in honour of the safe return of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Abyssinian army; and the band of the A division of police, conducted by Mr. Folke, performed an excellent selection of operatic and other music.

#### LATE EVENTS IN SERBIA.

Affairs appear to have settled down again into something like their normal condition in Serbia. The suitable burial rites of lying in state in the cathedral at Belgrade and a public funeral having been paid to the remains of the murdered Prince Michael, the Skuptschina has been convoked, Prince Milan proclaimed, and a regency chosen, to the members of which is intrusted the task of governing during the minority of the youthful Prince. The following account of the election of the regency is given in the Vienna Presse:—

"The President—The question before the House is the election of regents who are to govern the country till the majority of the Prince."

"Arssa Lukitsch, deputy for Belgrade—Brethren, the composition of the regency is of very great importance. We have been called on to make a good selection, and our brethren expect that we shall name the best men in the nation. We shall incur great responsibility before the country, because the welfare, the very existence of our dear Serbia depends upon our choice. Whilst calling on God to aid us in the accomplishment of this mission, I propose Milivoj Blasnawatz as first member of the regency (Several deputies: 'Yes, yes,') He possessed the entire confidence of our beloved Prince Michael, whose memory we shall ever cherish. He is acquainted with the art of war and full of energy, qualities which were always necessary in Serbia, and are more indispensable than ever under present circumstances (The deputies: 'Let us elect him!' 'God protect him!' 'Zivio!')

"Arssa Lukitsch—I propose as second member Iovan Ristitsch. (The deputies: 'Yes, yes,')

"The President—Are you all of this opinion?"

"The Deputies—Yes; we know who deserve our confidence."

"Arssa Lukitsch—All that I have said of Blasnawatz applies equally to Ristitsch, except that the first is a military man, the second a diplomatist. I think we should elect, as a third member, the senator Iovan Gavrilovitch ('Yes, yes'). For forty-one years he has been in the service of the State. His long career is without blemish. He is well known in the learned world, and he will act in harmony with the other two regents."

"The President—Do you all vote for him?"

"The Assembly—All."

"A Deputy—I do not. It would be better if the two first should elect the third."

"The President—Brethren, listen! Legally the Skuptschina has the right to elect the three members (Sensation)."

"Ristitsch—Brethren, the deputies have the right to elect the three members of the regency. Vote, then, freely as you like."

"The Assembly—You shall vote for Gavrilovitch."

"The President—You all vote, then, for these three members?"

"The Assembly—Yes. Long life to them."

"Blasnawatz—I thank you, in the name of the regency, for the honour you have done us. We shall act in harmony, and endeavour to hand over Serbia to Milan Obrenovitch IV. in a happier state than we find it. Have confidence in us."

"The Assembly—We have entire confidence in you."

"Blasnawatz—Let us cry, then, 'Long live Milan Obrenovitch IV., for the good and happiness of Serbia.'"

"The Assembly—Zivio! Zivio!"

"(At this moment the event was announced by a discharge of 101 guns, the Skuptschina shouting, 'Long live the young Prince!')

"Zivio! 'Ura! 'Ura!')

"The President—Now, brethren, name the deputation to invite the Prince to enter."

"A deputation of thirty-one deputies proceeded to Konak, and informed the Prince what had taken place. At ten o'clock the Prince arrived at the Skuptschina on horseback, surrounded by a brilliant suite. He was received by the Ministers, the senate, the clergy, and the diplomatic body."

"The Prince, having ascended the tribune, said—Brethren, may God aid you!"

"The Assembly—Hospodar, may God protect you!"

"The Prince—I am young and yet a student, though called to the throne of Serbia. I shall endeavour to inform myself well, in order that I may learn how I can be most useful to my people. In the mean time I resign myself with confidence to the people and regency whom they have chosen."

"Whilst the Prince was speaking several of the deputies shed tears. The oath was then administered to the regents by the Metropolitan."

"The members of the regency have issued the subjoined proclamation to the Serbian people:—"

"Brothers,—The great National Assembly, convoked in consequence of the death of our Prince, Michael Obrenovitch III., has unanimously proclaimed, at its sitting to-day, the accession to the throne of Serbia, by right of succession, of Milan Obrenovitch, hereditary Prince, and fourth of the name belonging to the Obrenovitch dynasty. Prince Milan being still under age, the National Assembly, in conformity with the law of Oct. 20, 1859, upon the hereditary character of the throne in the principality of Serbia, has proceeded to elect three persons, who will have to exercise sovereign authority. The choice of the National Assembly has fallen upon us, the undersigned."

"Brothers, we have taken possession of the Sovereign authority, and have sworn, before God and the National Assembly, to execute our task conscientiously and faithfully for the welfare of the country and our people. We have rejected everything which would be contrary to our conscience and to the law of the country, as well as to the interests and rights of Serbia and Prince Milan Obrenovitch. We have solemnly undertaken to employ all our efforts in causing the laws of the country to be observed, and in having it governed according to those laws. We have undertaken faithfully to preserve power for our young Prince Milan, to whom we have also taken the oath of fidelity."

"Brothers—Equally as the Serbian people has demanded with enthusiasm the continuation of the Obrenovitch dynasty, so, during the period we are called upon to exercise the Sovereign power, shall we consider it a sacred duty to continue the patriotic traditions of Prince Michael. By his sagacity and foresight, Prince Michael had succeeded in securing for our country important political advantages. Inspired with his great ideas, which we fully understand, we shall follow implicitly the course he has marked out and shall walk unflinchingly in his footsteps. At the same time, we shall constantly watch that law shall be in reality the supreme guiding power in Serbia, as was solemnly declared by Prince Michael, whose constant desire was the realisation of that lofty maxim. The development of the national force has been one of the most brilliant tasks Prince Michael imposed upon himself. We shall endeavour, not only to maintain the defensive power of the country in the state in which our first soldier has left it, but we shall have at heart its development in accordance with the necessities of the age. During Prince Michael's short reign Serbia had attained material prosperity; but, nevertheless, much in this respect remains to be done. We shall exert our utmost solicitude to neglect nothing (so far at least as the resources of the country will permit) which this age of progress considers indispensable to develop prosperity. Our national institutions contain many defects, which Prince Michael intended to remedy, as he would, no doubt, have done if not prevented by the hands of malefactors. We propose to ourselves, also, to go forward in this respect to the realisation of his projects by introducing the improvements required by circumstances and time. We shall undertake them generally, but with prudence. Serbia mourns a great loss, but she should not despair. A new Serbia will rise out of Prince Michael's noble blood."

"By more frequent communications between the Government and the people (through the Skuptschina) we shall endeavour, with God's help, to remove any difficulties that may arise. But, in order to do this, the goodwill of the Government and all its efforts are not all that will be required; the patriotic assistance of the whole nation is indispensable for the happy success of our undertakings. Let every Serbian, therefore, conscientiously fulfil the duties that fall within his sphere of action, as we solemnly promise to fulfil ours. We have no longer Prince Michael and his great authority amongst us; and it is only by concord between the Government and the nation that we shall be able to keep alive the ideas of our illustrious dead. In the difficult position in which the unexpected death of her Prince has cast Serbia, the Serbian people is giving proof, by its earnest attitude, of a political maturity that has preserved us from disorder and disorganisation. Do not let us abandon this course, for our own welfare and for that of the country. Our enemies alone could desire to see us act otherwise."

"Considering order as the first condition of the maintenance and progress of all a society, we shall not, for our parts, neglect any legal means of securing to the country the repose necessary to its prosperity. Whoever, therefore, should attempt to produce any disorder or to lay obstacles in the way of the new order of things proclaimed by the nation, know, in advance, that he will draw down upon himself all the rigour of the law. If the necessity should arise, the holders of the sovereign authority will know how to put forth all the energy necessary to preserve intact the sacred deposit the Serbian people has confided to their charge. All the public functionaries are retained in their posts, and the few changes that will be made will take place with legal limits. We recommend the authorities to remain executing their duties in the prescribed course, while exerting all their care for the maintenance of order and concord among the people. Just as it has been harmony between the Government and the people that has defeated criminal schemes that would have been the ruin of Serbia, so, with God's help, and under the shelter of that intimate concord, the young shoot of Obrenovitch will grow up and become the vigorous tree that shall cover the whole of Serbia with its salutary shade."

"Long live our young Prince Milan Obrenovitch IV.!"

#### VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS TO ADMIRAL FARRAGUT, AT OSTEND.

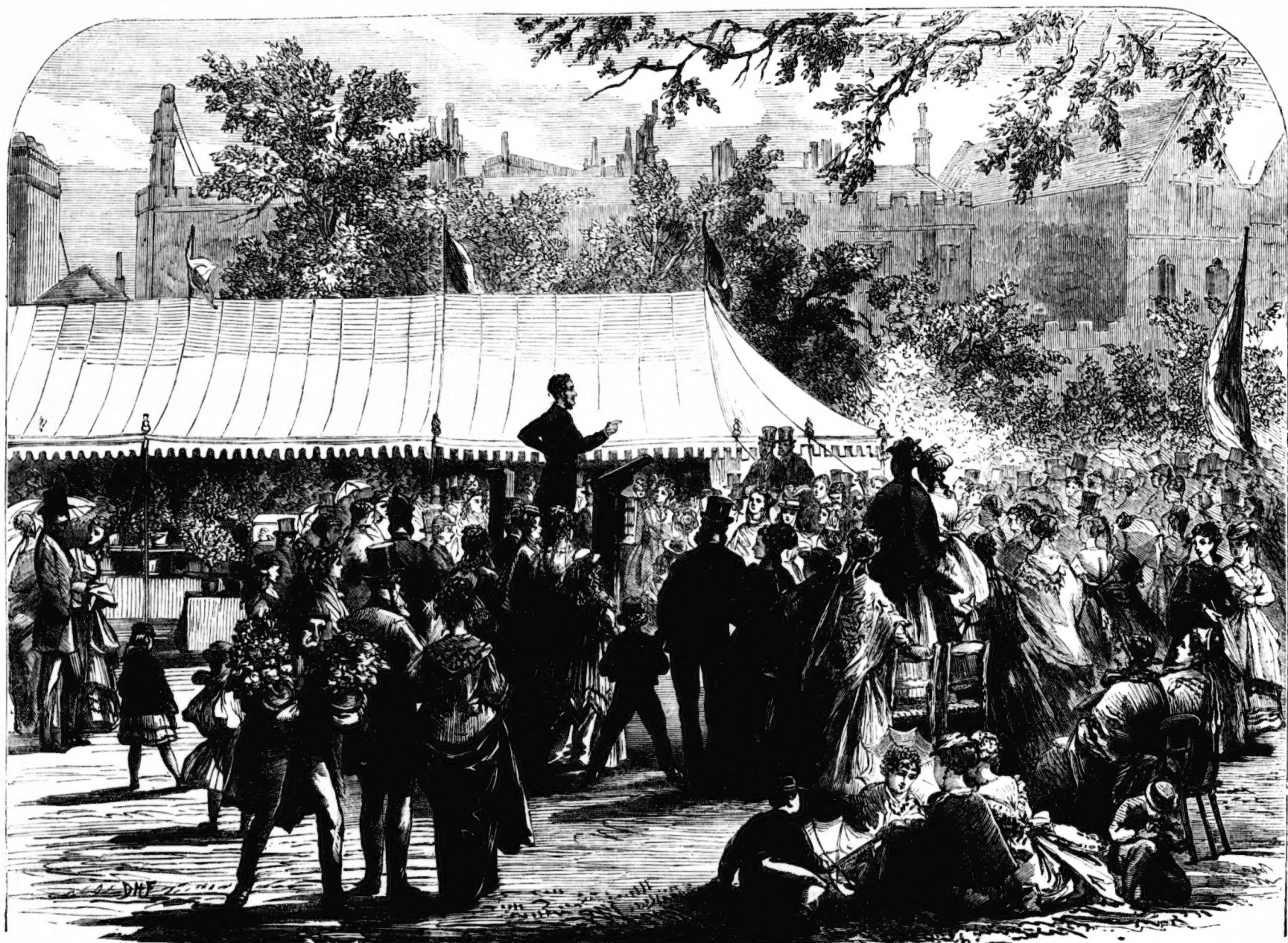
The quiet old town of Ostend has been in what reporters call a state of unprecedented excitement in consequence of the visit of the King and Queen of the Belgians to the American Admiral, whom all men seem delighted to honour. Their Majesties came from Loecken in a special train, and an immense crowd awaited their arrival at the station. The court carriages then conveyed them to the port, where the Louise Marie lay alongside, bearing the Royal flag at the mainmast. The King and the Royal suite took their places on board, and proceeded on their voyage, saluted, of course, by salvos of artillery. Unfortunately, a strong west wind brought torrents of rain, so that the party was some time before they could perceive the American vessels, the Franklin and the Ticonderoga, which were anchored about two leagues and a half from Ostend. The Franklin, however, launched all her boats, and that in itself was a fine spectacle, as it was effected with marvellous precision and rapidity. The boats, each with fourteen rowers and an officer, came in turn to receive the passengers from the Louise Marie; and at that moment the yards and rigging were manned, while the big guns again broke out in salute.

The Franklin, commanded by Admiral Farragut, is built on the plan of the American frigates, and carries thirty-nine guns. Its engines are 1900-horse power, and are worked by four boilers. Seven hundred men constitute the crew, with sixty officers, three of whom are surgeons. There are also on board seventy-seven marines, commanded by two officers. Their Majesties went over the vessel, and, together with the other visitors, received a hearty and appropriate welcome from the American officers. After having seen all the arrangements of the vessel, the Royal party witnessed various manoeuvres in seamanship and gunnery. During the visit the weather had cleared up, and a déjeuner of the most splendid character was served in the Admiral's saloon. This apartment, however, was not large enough to contain all the guests, and there were no chairs on board; so, the seats being full, a table was spread in another cabin, and a standing lunch compensated the hungry visitors, who obliterated with champagne the discomforts of the unaccustomed voyage, as they listened to the band of the crew playing the "Brabançonne." Cigars followed breakfast, although smoking is, as a rule, strictly forbidden on board the Franklin. After leaving the vessel, their Majesties paid a short visit to the Ticonderoga, and an hour afterwards landed at Ostend, whence they returned to Loecken the same evening.

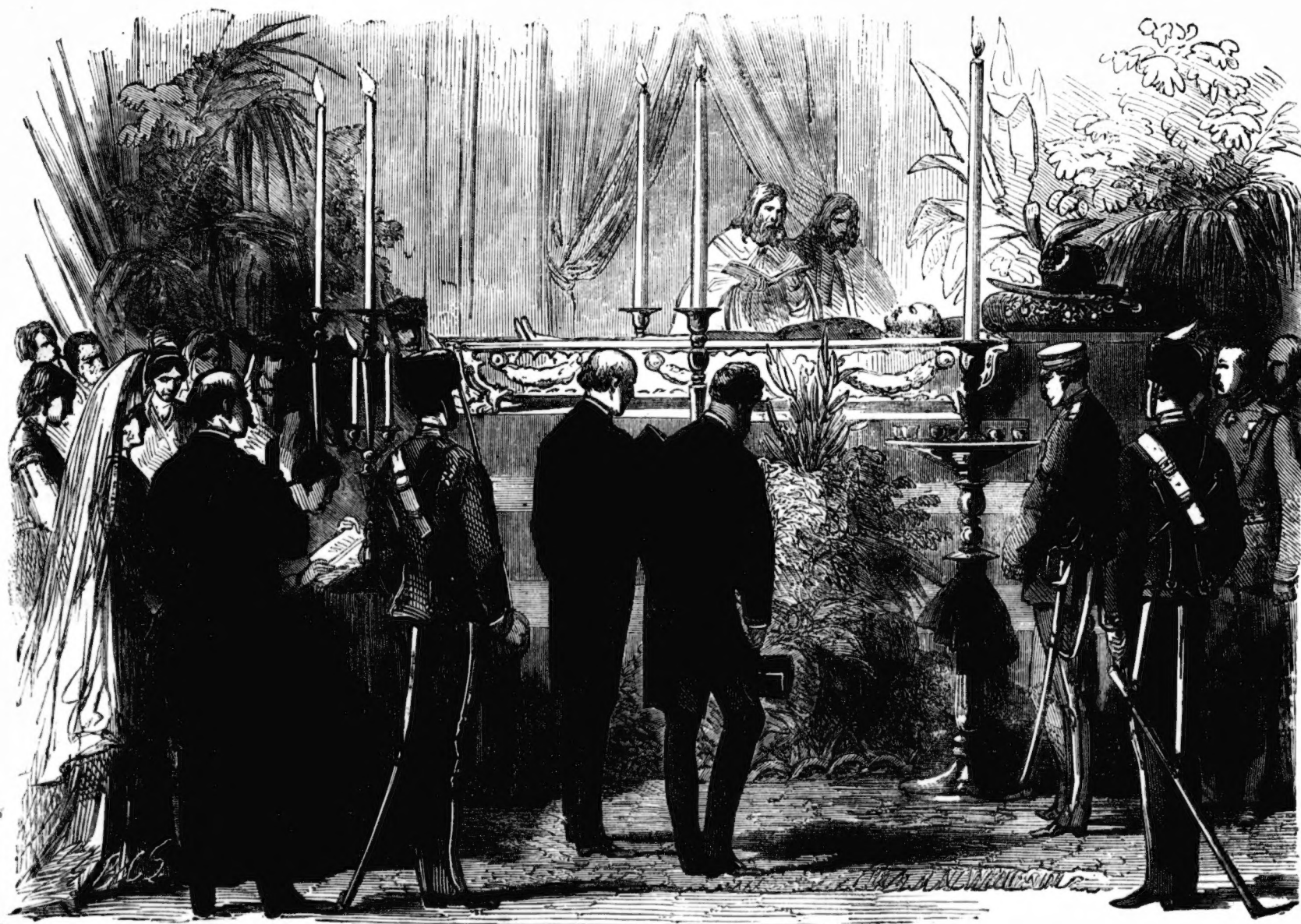
**THE RIGHT HON. H. T. L. CORRY.**—There is a general feeling of regret at the continued illness of Mr. Corry, the First Lord of the Admiralty. For some time past the right hon. gentleman has been unable to attend the weekly councils of the Cabinet, nor has his strength allowed him to be present either at Whitehall or in the House of Commons. Few members of Parliament have had a longer experience of the House than Mr. Corry. He has sat without interruption for the county of Tyrone for forty-two years; and a generation ago, in the first Ministry of Sir Robert Peel, he was Controller of the Royal Household. In point of age he is next to the oldest member of the present Cabinet. The retirement of Lord Derby and Lord Chelmsford some months ago left the palm of seniority to Sir John Pakington, who is sixty-nine. Mr. Corry is sixty-five, and the Prime Minister is two years younger.

**THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART AT LEEDS.**—An important meeting was held last week at Leeds between the executive committee of the exhibition and gentlemen representing the principal English railways, and arrangements were made which will no doubt largely increase the number of visitors to the exhibition. Among other things, it was agreed that the railway companies should run frequent excursion-trains from all parts of the country to the exhibition at greatly reduced fares. The railway companies also agreed to issue picnic tickets to the exhibition, available for six or more first-class or ten or more second or third class passengers at a single fare; and that they should also allow passenger-tourists from the south to the north, and vice versa, and passengers to the Yorkshire seaside and watering-places to break their journey at Leeds in order to visit the exhibition. The additional facilities afforded to the public by these arrangements bring a visit to the exhibition within the reach of the masses of the people in all parts of the country, and it is to be hoped that they will largely avail themselves of them.



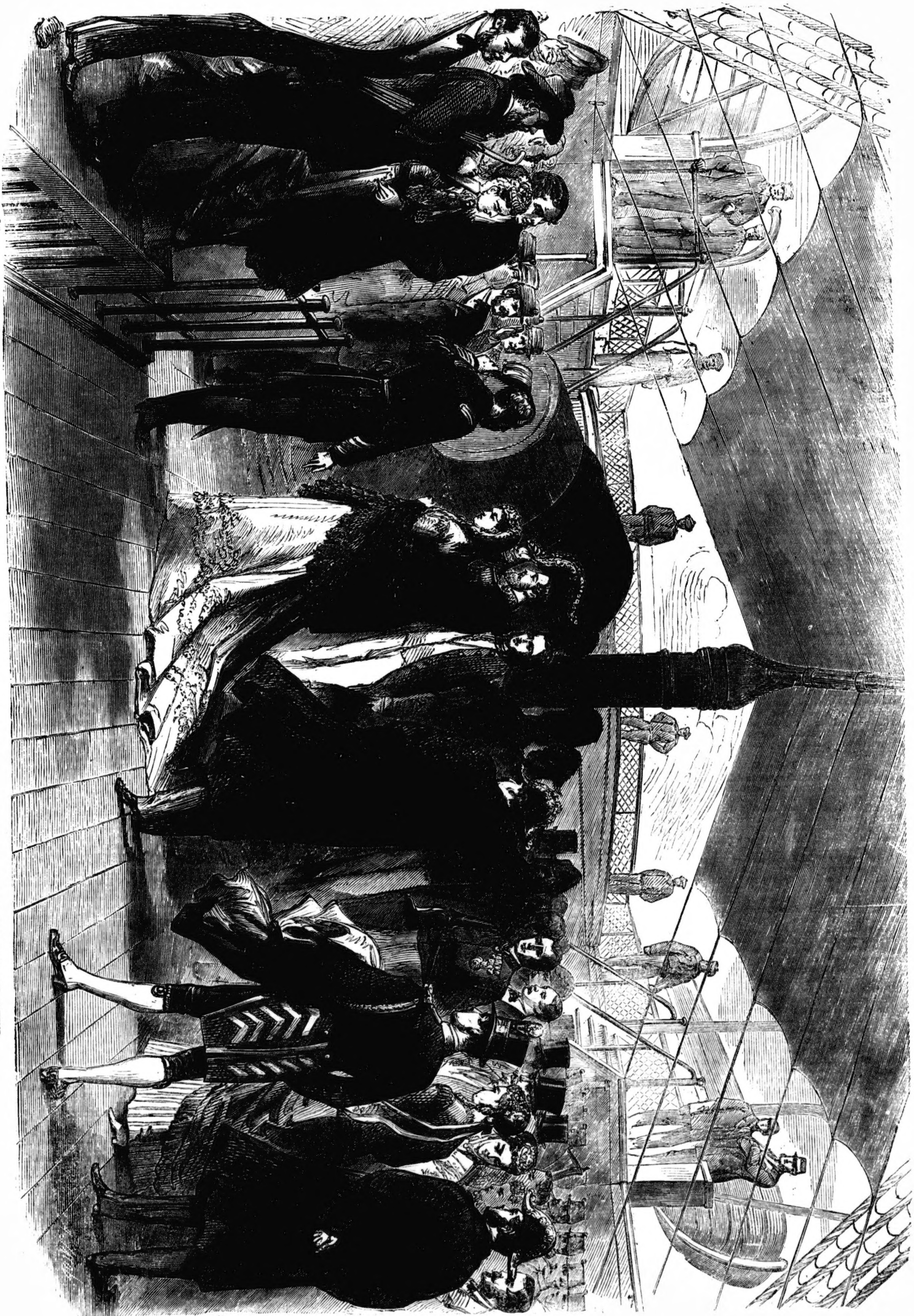


THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLAGE AT THE SHOW OF THE WESTMINSTER SOCIETY FOR ENCOURAGING WINDOW-GARDENING.



THE BODY OF THE LATE PRINCE MICHAEL OF SERBIA LYING IN STATE IN THE CATHEDRAL AT BELGRADE.





THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS VISITING ADMIRAL FARAGUT ON BOARD THE UNITED STATES SHIP FRANKLIN OFF OSTEND.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—No. 340.

LORD ELCHO AND HIS TWENTY HEARERS.

PARLIAMENTARY proceedings are very dull now in both Houses. Very little occurs worthy of notice. Half the members of the House of Commons are gone out of town. We rarely see a hundred members in the House. When on Thursday night last week Lord Elcho rose to deliver himself of a long speech upon War Office blaudering and mismanagement, there were only twenty members present. There had been more. When the discussion was begun by Colonel Jervis there were some fifty or sixty members in the House; but gradually they slipped away as dinner-time approached, and, as we have said, the noble Lord the member for Haddingtonshire had a fit audience, though few, of twenty men, dotted about like crows in a field. His Lordship complained that it was because members felt but small interest in War-Office reform that they went away. But some said that it was because it was known that his Lordship had a long speech to deliver. Which of these averments is true? Both, we should say. The members of the House feel little interest in anything going on here now. Why should they? How can they? In the first place, a large number of them—some say 200—do not mean to ask their constituents for their suffrages again; and how can they feel much interest in what the House does? Then, those who intend, if they can, to return here in December must feel but a very languid interest, for their hearts are in other places—down in their counties and boroughs—where already the note of preparation is heard. There is Preamble, for example, the member for Dullborough, what can he care for War-Office reform when his old opponent Rattle is canvassing the borough, making speeches, shouting the war-cry of "The Church in danger," and otherwise undermining his (Preamble's) interest there? Preamble would rush to the seat of war, if he could, and meet his enemy face to face; but he cannot leave yet. The whips of the Liberal party—to whom, in a measure, he owes his seat—beg him to stay. Moreover, he must not be thought to neglect his duty. He must see the Corrupt Practices Bill through, and he is also pledged to certain of his constituents to support the Foreign Cattle Market Bill, said constituents being farmers and graziers, fancying that this bill will raise the price of stock and so put money in their purses. And Preamble's case is not uncommon. Inclination would lead members away; while interest or duty bids them stay. But as to feeling any concern about War-Office reform, they cannot do it. It is true, then, that members feel little interest in War-Office reform, or anything else; but it is also true, probably, that many of the members left because they knew that Lord Elcho had prepared a long, voluminous speech, which lay in his memory, coil upon coil, as it were, ready to be paid out, as the sailors say; and, knowing what a tedious, wearisome process this would be, they slipped away to their houses or clubs, or to the dining-room on the premises. And, really, no one who has heard Lord Elcho speak can wonder at this; for, in truth, though he possesses many of the qualifications of a good speaker—fine presence, good voice, not bad action if he would but put on the steam, plenty of words which he can marshal into clear sentences—he is a dreary orator. He is so slow, so monotonous, so repetitious, that his speaking is dreadfully wearisome; and whenever we have been doomed to be present when Lord Elcho, with long-drawn systole and diastole, slowly pumped out his stream of words, though desirous to listen, as in duty bound, we have been generally, gradually though irresistibly, drawn into the land of dreams—not into a sound nap, but into that middle state in which we could hear the voice of the speaker, and partially catch his ideas; but mingled them with the oddest fantasies. Strange that the noble Lord, with his long experience in the House, should have failed to learn that oratory is never so effective there as when it is direct and compact. John Bright is far away, we consider, the most effective speaker in the House—not the most eloquent. For eloquence Gladstone bears the palm; but for effectiveness, Bright. And if Lord Elcho were to study Bright's speeches, he would discover that much of his force is owing to this: he never uses a word too many. His words are few and fully chosen; and of Gladstone we may say that he is most forcible when he is least wordy; and, curious enough, though quite natural, he is least wordy when he is most earnest. These things are worth your study, my Lord; and if you would study them in the vacation, and if Haddingtonshire should return you again, you may, in the next Parliament, find that the members will be as inclined to listen to you as they are now to wander away when you rise to speak. Learn to pack what modicum of gold you have in small quantities, my Lord, and do not laboriously beat it into leaf.

## BIRTH OF A PRINCESS.

On that same Thursday evening the House had to perform the ceremony of voting an "address to her Majesty on the birth of a Princess by the Royal consort of the Heir Apparent." Mr. Disraeli moved and Mr. Gladstone seconded the motion. As the House had to go through this form four times in five years, it was not to be expected these two eloquent statesmen could say anything very new. Mr. Disraeli found matter for rejoicing in "the additional security which this auspicious event gives us for the continuance of that dynasty which is indissolubly connected with the liberties of the country. No fear that her Majesty's dynasty will end, seeing that her Majesty has nine children, and already, as we reckon, thirteen grandchildren." These flattering words of the Prime Minister are peculiarly Disraelian; and they will tell at Court, where, it is said, the right hon. gentleman is in high favour—higher in favour, it is whispered, than any Minister has been since the days of Lord Melbourne. So it is said, exultingly, by the Conservatives in the lobby and at the clubs, they thinking that this will strengthen Conservatism in the country, this Royal favour enjoyed by their chief. Well, it may; but it may not. Court favourites have not always been popular favourites; and if the Royal favour is conferred on the Prime Minister as a political chief and not merely as a pleasant gentleman who can enliven the dull decorum of a court with lively conversation, sparkling with wit and repartee and tinged with delicate flattery, it may produce results the very opposite of those which are contemplated. *Verbum sap.* Mr. Gladstone could not talk about strengthening and perpetuating the dynasty, and so he found matter for joy in the fact that "no new strain has been imposed upon, no detriment has accrued to, the constitution of one whose pure and lofty character and whose gracious manner, no less than her high character, has caused her to be an object of the greatest interest." So they wrapped it up. The affair did not last ten minutes.

## MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN.

As soon as this was over, the Prime Minister went to the bar. "What have you there?" said Mr. Speaker. "Message from the Queen, Sir." "Bring it up," replied Mr. Speaker; and, all the members having taken off their hats, Mr. Disraeli marched up the House, bowing as he went, and handed the paper containing the message to the Speaker, who proceeded to read it to the House, the members continuing uncovered the while, according to the old rule in such case made and provided. The tenor of the message was that her Majesty, being desirous of conferring some signal mark of her favour upon Sir Robert Napier—grant him a peerage, as it afterwards was announced—recommends the House of Commons to enable her Majesty to make provision to secure to Sir Robert Napier and his next surviving heir male a pension of £2000 a year. Sir Robert did his work in Abyssinia well, and this is his reward—a peerage and £2000 a year for two lives. He is now Lord Napier of Magdala, and long may he enjoy his honours and his pension! And may his son be like unto his father, and then the country will not grudge the money!

## THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY'S GRIEFS.

On Monday night, after a long discussion upon armour-clads and other matters, the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates. Pitiably was the case of Lord Henry Lennox, our Admiralty Secretary, that night. In the first place, his Lordship had a bad foot. It was not the gout that

afflicted him, but a painful gathering of some sort on one of his toes, a trifle, perhaps, if he could but have rested on his sofa and assiduously nursed the sore; but this could not be. When the First Lord of the Admiralty is a member of the House, it is his duty, and not that of the Secretary, to work the Navy Estimates through Committee. Mr. Corry, our First Lord, is a member of the House, but he is away at Dover for the recovery of his health. Well, Lord Henry is quite competent to manage the Estimates. Indeed, in some respects, more competent than the First Lord. He is not a sailor, as is the First Lord, and therefore cannot know so much about ships and naval matters as Mr. Corry does. But he is a better speaker than his chief, and, if he does not know so much as the First Lord, he can tell us what he does know much better; and, considering that he has been in office only two years and a half, it is really surprising how well informed he is. He must have the faculty of receptivity in no small degree, and he must have worked hard. But on Monday, as we have said, he was in bad case. First, there was that pestering toe, which, though he had a camp-stool whereon he propped his leg as he stood at the table, must have troubled him much. This, however, was the slightest of his misfortunes. Until Saturday he did not know certainly that he should have this duty of working through the Estimates. Up to that day the First Lord had held out hopes that he would be present; but he then sent a letter to say that he was not well enough to come, and so Lord Henry had at once to set to work to master his subject. There was not much time had all things been auspicious, but they were far from being auspicious. First, there was that inflamed toe throbbing; then it was discovered that the First Lord had taken all the papers with him, and had forgotten to send them. The telegraph was set to work, and it was hoped that the documents would arrive on Saturday night, but they did not reach London till Monday morning. Here was a pretty fix for a Secretary of the Admiralty to be in! Making bricks without straw was easy work to him. Postponement, it seems, was out of the question. Time is precious now. Moreover, notice had been published in the votes and proceedings that the Navy Estimates would be moved on Monday, and moved on Monday they must be. There could be no flinching then, the work must be done, and his Lordship must do it. In the absence of the papers, by aid of which he could have with a little help got himself up, he must be coached up, and this, we apprehend, was what was done. All day on Saturday and Sunday, even Monday morning, he was hard at work. Fortunately, his Lordship has, as we have said, the faculty of receptivity, and he must also have quick discernment, discrimination, and a good memory. But he must have had a hard time of it, brain and hands all at work, and inflamed toe throbbing the while. Who could have wondered if he had utterly broken down? But he did not break down, but with unflinching courage he stuck to his work, and he conquered at last. For on Monday night he performed his task well. He got his fourteen votes, and thus closed Navy Supply, and stood his ground manfully, though he had to stand on one leg, with the other propped up by the camp stool, against all comers—Seely the reformer, shipbuilder Samuda, shipbuilder Laird, fierce and plain-spoken Captain Mackinnon, not to mention many others of more or less note; and if Lord Henry did not gain a brilliant victory, he certainly lost no ground. It is curious to look back and reflect upon the noble Lord's career in the House. He has been a member twenty-two years. For a very long time he scarcely ever spoke. Suddenly, however, some six or seven years ago, he startled us with a lively, effective speech. Then he dived under, only now and then rising to the surface to utter a few sentences; and it was not till he took the Secretaryship of the Navy that he showed us that he really had talent for business. Why was this? True, he never till lately held any office that gave him an opportunity of speaking; but he might have aired his talents in criticising his opponents' policy.

## A NEW BLASTING AGENT.

SOME curious experiments were made on Tuesday at the Mertham Grey Limestone Works, near Redhill, with dynamite, a new blasting powder, the inventor of which is Mr. A. Nobel, a Swedish gentleman. A numerous company of scientific men were conveyed to Mertham by special train, and they returned profoundly impressed with the extraordinary powers and properties of the new compound and the perfect success of the tests applied to it. Dynamite, which resembles coarse dark-brown sand, is a solid granular explosive, for which is claimed force of a remarkable degree, and a harmlessness under ordinary circumstances that cannot fail, if fully confirmed, to make it one of the most popular and desirable of explosive agents. The causes which render gunpowder and nitro-glycerine so dangerous to handle, or convey by the common modes of transit, have no effect upon it. Nitro-glycerine explodes at 240 degs. Fahrenheit, gun cotton at 400 degs., gunpowder at 600 degs., a common fire at 1200 degs.; but a much higher temperature than this is required to ignite dynamite, which must be placed somewhere between 1400 and 3280 degs. A thin deal box containing 10 lb. of the compound was placed over a raging fire; the box was consumed, but there was no explosion, and the dynamite mingled harmlessly with the ashes. It was in other ways placed in immediate contact with fire, with the same results. Gunpowder was exploded near it without effect. The superiority of the material over the dangerous explosives as to which concussion would be certain destruction was acknowledged by several practical persons present connected with the carrying trades. Ten pounds of dynamite were inclosed in a second deal box, and hurled from the top of a cliff. It fell sixty feet upon the rocks below, with no more signs of explosion than would be caused by the fall of a brickbat. Equally striking were the illustrations given of its deadly strength. A cartridge filled with dynamite was placed upon a two-inch oak plank. A fuse with a strong percussion-cap was attached to it and fired, and the plank was split in several places, and had a hole knocked through it. The percussion-cap is the explosive agent, and it is claimed that nothing else, so far as is known, will do the work. In this instance the work was done most effectually, although the cartridge, which was about the size of a man's finger, was laid loosely on the plank. A large block of granite, about a yard cube, was shivered by like treatment. A block of wrought iron, with an inch-bore hole, but without either plug or tamping, shared the same fate, as did a wrought iron cylinder with a charge laid loose on the top. The rocks were bored 15 ft. deep, and fired, with an effect that startled the quarrymen present, not because of the loudness of the report so much as because of the immediate and extensive character of the blasting. Other experiments demonstrated the great velocity imparted to fragments of shells charged with dynamite, and its adaptability to distress signals. At the close Sir Charles Fox, and several gentlemen connected with mining, railway, and other kindred interests, expressed their surprise at and admiration of what they had seen, one speaker saying that, if the material were in use, much saving of life would be the result, and another expressing his belief that railway companies might carry it without any risk. Sir Charles Fox thought it would act admirably in borings under water. Entire confidence was expressed as to the future of the invention, and Mr. Nobel experienced a reception that amounted to an ovation, when he briefly thanked the spectators for the disinterested kindness they had shown him. The merits of dynamite are already engaging the attention of foreign Governments.

THE HEALTH OF THE METROPOLIS is not so satisfactory as in some previous returns of the Registrar-General. Last week there were 126 deaths over the average number, and the rate of mortality was 25 in every 1000 persons living.

A SCHEME IS PROPOSED FOR CONSTRUCTING A TUNNEL under the Irish Sea between the north coast of Antrim and the opposite point of the Mull of Cantyre, the object being to bring the chief commercial centres of Ulster into speedy communication with Glasgow. The estimated cost of the undertaking is set down at £3,180,000.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 10.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord STANHOPE promised that the report of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the affairs of the Irish Church should be ready in a week's time.

On the order of the day for considering the Commons' amendments to the Scotch Reform Bill, the House was unanimous in disagreeing with the amendment abolishing the £4 line. Lord MALMESBURY was supported in this course by the Duke of ARGYLL and Lord RUSSELL.

Lord TOWNSHEND's well-intentioned bill for protecting the property of lodgers against seizure for landlords' debts was withdrawn, but the LORD CHANCELLOR made a speech in which the necessity for a change in the law was virtually admitted.

The unfortunate statutes in Westminster Hall excited a protest on Lord HARDINGE's part, and Lord REDESDALE suggested that they should be dusted once a week. They were also ridiculed by Lord MALMESBURY, although he would not promise to order their removal.

Lord SPENCER called attention to the misconduct of some of the volunteers at the Windsor review, and the Duke of CAMBRIDGE read a severe lecture to the delinquents, and more especially denounced the conduct of the officers who set a bad example.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## ACCOMMODATION IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. HEADLAM asked whether the report of the Select Committee on the House of Commons arrangement would be carefully considered by the Government during the recess, so that provision might be made according to the views of the Government in the Estimates for next year.

Lord JOHN MANNERS promised that the Government would give the most careful consideration to the report of the Committee, and also to the report presented by Colonel French from the Kitchen Committee, with the view of proposing next year such alterations as the Government shall deem desirable.

## CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

The consideration of the Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill, in Committee, was then proceeded with.

In reply to Mr. Monsell, it was stated by Mr. DISRAELI that it would be difficult to include Ireland in the present bill. The right hon. gentleman subsequently added that, if it were desired to make a similar provision for the trial of Irish and Scotch election petitions, it would be done, but it would not be necessary to increase the number of Irish and Scotch Judges. He asked the House to pass the bill for England and Wales, and, if it were deemed desirable on consideration, a provision could be introduced to extend its principle to Ireland and Scotland. In the course of the discussion, clauses 10, 11, 12, and 13 were struck out. The Committee then proceeded to discuss the clause providing for the selection of Judges of the superior courts to try election petitions. By a majority of 65, the House adopted the following important clause:—"The members of each of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, shall, on or before the first day of Michaelmas Term in every year, select, by a majority of votes, one of the Puisne Judges of such court, not being a member of the House of Lords, to be placed on the rota for the trial of election petitions during the ensuing year." The Committee had reached the 17th clause when the discussion was adjourned.

## SATURDAY, JULY 11.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a few minutes and received a message informing them that the Commons did not insist on their amendments to the amendments inserted by their Lordships in the Scotch Reform Bill.

## MONDAY, JULY 13.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## ROYAL ASSENT.

The Royal assent was given by Commission to the Scotch and Irish Reform Bills, the Boundary Bill, and a large number of other public and private bills.

## RAILWAY FARES.

Lord TAUNTON then moved the resolution of which he had given notice, "That no railway bill that proposes to increase the rates now payable on the conveyance of goods or passengers shall be read the second time until a special report from the Board of Trade on the subject shall have been laid on the table of the House."

Lord CAMOYS and Lord REDESDALE objected to the Board of Trade having anything to do with the matter.

Lord SALISBURY, together with Lords GRANVILLE and CLANRICARDE, supported the motion; which was assented to by the Duke of RICHMOND, and ultimately agreed to.

## ENFRANCHISEMENT OF REVENUE OFFICERS.

The bill for enabling officers employed in the Customs and Inland Revenue department to exercise the elective franchise was, with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, read the second time, Lord GRANVILLE commenting on the inconsistency between the speech of Lord Cairns and the strong speech delivered against the bill by the Chancellor of the Exchequer when it was before the House of Commons.

## CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

The Compulsory Church-rates Abolition Bill was read the third time. The Bishop of London's amendment, having reference to district parishes, was agreed to; and the Bishop of Gloucester and Lord Lyttelton raised a solemn protest against the bill.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## OUR IRON-CLAD FLEET.

Captain MACKINNON called attention to the defects in the construction of ships of the Invincible and Minotaur class.

Mr. SEELY moved that a scientific inquiry be instituted, to take into consideration the leading characteristics that should be adopted in the future construction of the vessels of the Navy. He asked the Admiralty to pause before it ran the risk of throwing away enormous sums of money upon ironclads, which he believed would prove failures. He asked why, if it were true that the Bellerophon was the best ship in the Royal Navy, the experiment had not been repeated, and he characterised the armour-clad gun-boats as utter failures.

Mr. SAMUDA mentioned that eight different types of iron-clad ships had been constructed by the Admiralty, and argued that, if any of them had been satisfactory, so many new designs would not have been brought out.

Lord H. LENNOX defended the Admiralty against the various charges that had been preferred.

Mr. CHILDERS recommended Mr. Seely to withdraw his motion, while at the same time he thought that the Board would do well to call in scientific assistance.

Mr. SEELY took a vote, and was defeated by a majority of ten.

The House shortly afterwards went into Committee of Supply, and voted the remainder of the Navy Estimates.

## TUESDAY, JULY 14.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Bankruptcy Act Amendment Bill was committed, but progress was reported, though none had been made, upon Lord Westbury, Lord Romilly, and the Lord Chancellor objecting to so partial and hasty a treatment of the question. A large number of bills were forwarded a stage, and amongst the Consular Marriages Bill, the Railway Companies Bill, the Curragh and Kildare Bill, and the Renewable Leasehold Conversions (Ireland) Act Extension Bill were read the third time and passed; and the Revenue Officers' Disabilities Removal Bill, the Railways (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill, and the Hudson's Bay Company Bill went through Committee.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## INVALID OFFICERS.

Sir ROBERT ANSTRUTHER asked the Secretary of State for War whether the travelling allowances of officers invalided home from Abyssinia have been disallowed, and, if so, for what reason.

Sir J. PAKINGTON explained that officers coming home invalided come under strict Army regulations applicable to all officers, wherever they come from. He thought that the rule was hard on officers who came home in consequence of being really ill, and were consequently obliged to leave their duty. He thought that such officers should be conveyed free of expense to their own homes, wherever they might be; and they were considering at the War Office a new rule for that purpose, by which officers compelled to come home from ill-health, by the decision of a medical board, should receive all their travelling expenses; but he could not say whether the rule would be retrospective.

## CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

The House resumed the discussion in Committee of the Election Petitions and Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill. Great progress was made with the bill, which was ordered to be again considered in Committee on Thursday, Mr. Disraeli intimating that the duration of the bill's operation would be limited to three years.

## SUPPLY—CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

Mr. CHILDERS delivered an able speech on the growing expenditure in connection with the Civil Service; upon which the House went into Committee of Supply, and a number of votes were passed.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 15.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. NEWDEGATE postponed his Church Rates Commutation Bill, which stood on the paper for second reading, until Wednesday next.



Mr. AYRTON, on behalf of Mr. H. Sheridan, moved the committal of the Investment of Trust Funds Supplemental Bill, which Mr. Serjeant GASELKE met with a proposal to commit the measure that day three months. A division followed, which resulted in the rejection of the bill by 33 to 16.

The Sale of Poisons and Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill (from the Lords) was discussed at considerable length in Committee, and several amendments introduced and new clauses added.

The motion to consider the Mines Assessment Bill, as amended, was opposed by Sir R. COLLIER, who moved to postpone the measure for a fortnight, which at this period is tantamount to defeat, on the ground that the alteration effected in Committee at the instance of Mr. Ayrton, by which the property, and not the owner or occupier, was rendered liable to be rated, made the bill unworkable. In this opinion the SOLICITOR-GENERAL expressed his concurrence, and recommended that, as the measure in its then shape was not a creditable piece of legislation, it should be withdrawn. Mr. LIDDELL counselled Mr. Wyndham, who had charge of the measure, to accede to the amendment, and throw upon the Executive the responsibility of dealing with the matter in a future Session. Mr. BRUCE remarked that if the language of the clause introduced by Mr. Ayrton enabled overseers to levy a rate on the mines of Cornwall and Devon then it represented the opinions of nine tenths of the House. Mr. DENMAN reiterated the view enunciated by Sir R. Collier and the Solicitor-General that the clause was impracticable. After some further conversation, Mr. WYNDHAM consented to the amendment, and the bill was postponed accordingly.

The Public Schools Bill, the Tithe Commutation Acts Amendment Bill, the Vaccination (Ireland) Bill, the Municipal Elections (Scotland) Bill, the Militia Pay Bill, and the Liquidation Bill were severally read the third time.

Sir Robert Napier's Annuity Bill was passed through Committee, after a suggestion by Mr. Serjeant Gaselee that the gallant General should be paid a lump sum of £50,000, instead of an annuity of £2000, and have a peerage for life conferred upon him, instead of one in perpetuity.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 16.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord REDESDALE moved to amend standing order No. 179 by the insertion of a section "that no bill which proposes to increase the rates now payable on the conveyance of goods or passengers on any railway shall be read a second time until a report from the Board of Trade on the subject, made after the bill has been read a first time in this House, shall have been laid upon the table of the House." The noble Lord explained that this was a slight modification of the motion brought forward a few days ago. He took this opportunity of recurring to the point which was before discussed as to the policy of admitting an increase of railway fares in any case, and he was strongly of opinion that under no circumstances should an increase be sanctioned by Parliament.

The motion was agreed to, and several bills were advanced a stage.

##### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

###### THE ROYAL GUN FACTORIES.

Major ANSON moved, "That a Committee of five members be appointed by the Committee of Selection to inquire into the following allegations:—That in 1864 the Royal gun factories, on being applied to by the Ordnance Select Committee for estimates for cheaper 9-inch guns than those that were being made at that time, sent in erroneous comparative estimates, on the strength of which the Ordnance Select Committee decided in favour of the gun proposed by the Royal gun factories; that a sample 9-inch gun was then made by the Royal gun factories, the details of the cost of which, on being compared with the details of the cost of similar guns manufactured two years afterwards, show great and apparently inexplicable discrepancies; and that like errors have been made by the Royal gun factories with regard to the comparative cost of new wrought-iron and converted guns, thereby entailing a heavy and unnecessary expense upon the country."

After some discussion, it was agreed that a Committee of seven should be appointed—one of whom should be Major Anson—one by the Government, and the remaining five members by the House, and not by the Committee of Selection.

###### THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Colonel JERVIS moved "an address for a copy of the draught regulations for the Control department originally sent in by the War Office to the Treasury, together with any memoranda thereupon by the Assistant Under Secretary of State for War, together with the reply thereto by the Controller-in-Chief." The hon. and gallant member said the Secretary of State for War had denied that there was any foundation for the charge that there existed differences between himself and Sir Henry Storks as to the duties of the departments; but if these papers were produced he believed he should be able to show that, although up to a certain point the Secretary for War and the Controller-in-Chief had worked harmoniously together, there did not now exist any unity of action or harmony whatever, but that, on the contrary, very great differences prevailed.

Lord ELCHO thought there was a misunderstanding on the part of the public as to the point at issue. It was supposed that there was a conflict between the civil and military elements of the War Departments and an endeavour to place the military above the civil elements. No doubt some jealousy did exist as to the nature of the control which the new Controller-in-Chief was to exercise, but he contended that there could be no serious misunderstanding, as the duties of the Controller, of the Secretary for War, and of all other officials in that department were explicitly defined.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said he adhered to the statement he had made upon a previous occasion that these charges were wild, unfounded, and unjustifiable. He denied that there was any desire on the part of the War Office to get rid of Sir H. Storks, and said the speeches of Colonel Jervis and Lord Elcho showed that they were totally destitute of accurate information on the subject.

After some further debate the motion was negatived without a division.

###### SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and the consideration of vote 21 of the Army Estimates was proceeded with, and after some discussion the vote was passed.

In Committee of Ways and Means, on the motion of Mr. SCLATER-BOTH, it was agreed to vote a sum out of the Consolidated Fund and the surplus of Ways and Means for the service of the year 1868-9.

###### ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought up the report of the Select Committee on the Electric Telegraphs Bill. The preamble had been passed and amendments introduced. It would be discussed on Monday next.

###### NATURALISATION.

Lord STANLEY stated that the United States Government had forwarded a despatch on the subject of naturalisation, to which he had sent an answer. He did not think any misunderstanding would arise. The Government had declined to accede to the treaty until the Commission had made its report.

###### THE CATTLE MARKET BILL.

In reply, Lord ROBERT MONTAGU said any restrictions on the import of cattle from the Baltic would not have the effect of stopping the importation of the cattle plague.

On going into Committee, the discussion on this bill was resumed by Mr. MOFFAT, who said that the introduction of this bill by the Government was retrogressive in character, and contained within it the worst germs of the protective principle. The patent object of this bill was to raise the price of meat to the consumer.

Mr. LAING was afraid the House had been legislating on inaccurate information, and therefore he could not give his support to the bill.

Mr. HADFIELD moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. M. GIBSON asserted that a round robin had been presented to the Premier by a number of members below the Ministerial gangway who doubted the right hon. gentleman's sincerity in supporting the bill.

Mr. DISRAELI condemned the motion for adjournment as unusual, and urged the House to come to a decision upon the merits of the bill.

Mr. HADFIELD withdrew his motion for adjourning the debate.

Mr. JACOB BRIGHT insisted that Government, in promoting the bill, were not acting in obedience to their own convictions but under the influence of coercion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER denied that the question was between rural and urban interests, and said that if he regarded it as a step towards the revival of protection in any shape whatever he would not have consented to his name being placed on the back of it.

After a discussion of more than six hours' duration the House divided, when the motion for going into Committee on the bill was carried by a majority of 191 against 82.

The debate was soon afterwards adjourned.

Sir R. Napier's Annuity Bill was read the third time and passed.

MR. TITUS SALT, the owner of Salthair, near Bradford, has caused notice to be given to such tenants as hold licenses as grocers to sell beer to the effect that the sale of liquors will not be further allowed in the village, and that, consequently, they must not renew their licenses, which are just expiring. Neither beer-shop nor public-house is allowed to exist at Salthair.

THE SUPPRESSED CONVENT OF ST. MARK, at Florence, has been converted by the Italian Government into a special museum, in honour of the great Florentine reformer, Savonarola. Whilst this has been carried out, under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Instruction, Count Pietro Guicciardini has presented to the National Library—formerly the Magliabechian—a magnificent collection of records, which it has been the care of his whole life to bring together, to illustrate the history of the Reformation in Italy.

THE CURATORS of the EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY have elected Sir Alexander Grant as Principal, by a majority of four to three. Those who voted for Sir A. Grant were the Lord Justice General, Sir William Gibson Craig, Mr. Milne Horne, and Mr. Adam Black; and for Sir James Simpson there voted the Lord Provost and Bailies Rossell and Fyfe.

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#### SPANISH AFFAIRS.

NEARLY a whole year had passed and there had been neither a revolution, nor an insurrection, nor even a political riot in Spain, when the news arrived of the arrest of three hundred officers, including a large proportion of Generals, and of the expulsion from the Spanish territory of the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier. Telegrams, as a rule, are not very intelligible things, and the first news that reached England of the movement in Spain was something more than mysterious. Political life in that country seems to be directed altogether by General Prim, Narvaez, O'Donnell, Espartero, Serrano, and half a dozen other leaders of parties, are all Generals; and it is, perhaps, some consolation for Spaniards to reflect that the army being thus divided against itself, there is, at least, not much chance of the Government being converted into a military despotism. However, the beginning of troubles in Spain is always marked by the arrest of a certain number of Generals, at the instigation if not by the positive order, of other Generals. That first step astonishes no one; but the question immediately afterwards arises, "What party or parties do the arrested Generals represent?" and to that question it does not, in the present instance, seem very easy to give a plain answer. We may state, however, generally, that there are three great parties in Spain, in addition to the little Court party, of which Queen Isabella is the centre. In the country, apart from the Court, Queen Isabella seems to have no supporters; and the one great point on which all parties are agreed is, that it would be a very good thing to get rid of the reigning Sovereign.

But who should govern in her place? Here disagreement naturally begins. Don Juan, the present representative of the late Don Carlos, but not of the fast diminishing Carlists, whose absolute traditions are gradually dying out, offered a few years ago to undertake the government of the country on sound Constitutional principles, and made his offer, characteristically enough, in a letter to the *Times* newspaper. Don Juan's ideas have plenty of supporters in Spain; but Don Juan himself is not liked, and there are said to be good reasons for not liking him. He, however, must be regarded as the chief of the Constitutional party in Spain.

Next in importance to the Constitutional party is, or was, the Iberian party, consisting of those who are in favour of uniting Spain and Portugal in one large kingdom or empire. Some years ago this party was numerous and influential; but the present King of Portugal is far from being admired, and he is not considered to possess enough strength of character to qualify him for the important position which the programme of the party in question would assign to him. Accordingly, Iberianism is by no means the popular political creed that it was some years ago. Indeed, since the accession of the present King, seven years ago, many persons, both in Spain and in Portugal, have come to look upon it as a dream, in the nature of Pan-Scandinavianism, Pan-Slavonianism, and other unrealisable, philosopho-political ideas. "Iberianism," like the two other "isms" just mentioned, is chiefly based on supposed ethnological affinities. Spaniards and Portuguese, like Swedes and Danes, Russians and Poles, are, to some extent, of common origin. On the other hand, Spaniards and Portuguese, Swedes and Danes, Russians and Poles, entertain for one another not sympathy, but antipathy; for nations will not, any more than individuals, love their kindred for kin's sake alone. Nevertheless, the Queen is so little respected that if the King of Portugal were as good a statesman as he is said to be a musician, Iberianism would count numbers of adherents among the Spaniards.

The third great political party in Spain is the Republican, or Revolutionary party, which exists everywhere in Europe—or, at least, on the European Continent. At the head of this red democratic party ("party of progress") is General Prim. But General Prim, as everyone knows, is a fugitive from his country; and the work of heading the last meditated insurrection must, if it had come to anything, have been intrusted to other hands. It is said that one of the main objects of the recent movement so suddenly checked was to dethrone Queen Isabella and place the Duke de Montpensier on the throne. Opposing parties had, at least, agreed that any Government must be better than the existing Government—any Sovereign better than the Sovereign who now reigns; and it was thought that if the Duke de Montpensier assumed the Crown as a constitutional Monarch, he would observe the articles of the constitution he had sworn to maintain. Precise information on such a matter as this must, of course, be difficult to obtain. But it is believed

that one man in Europe—the Emperor of the French—has known all that was going on in Spain for some time past, and that it was in consequence of his representations that the recent arrests were made, and that the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier were ordered to leave the country. The explanation of such a fact would be simple enough. The French Emperor could never allow an Orleanist Prince, with claims on the French crown, to rule in Spain; and it is known that he has more than once made a declaration to that effect.

#### BANQUET TO SIR R. NAPIER.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER was entertained, on Monday night, by the members of the East India United Service Club, in St. James's-square. About one hundred gentlemen were present—Sir Bartle Frere presiding—and among those at the centre table were, besides the guest of the evening, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir J. Burgoyne; Lord William Hay, M.P.; Sir Charles Staveley, Sir W. Wyllie, General Baker, &c. The health of Sir Robert Napier was drunk with great enthusiasm. Sir Robert Napier, in responding, said if anyone had told him forty years ago when he arrived in Calcutta, a Second Lieutenant of Engineers, without a connection in the country, and without a friend except his contemporaries who went out with him, that he should receive from the Indian services the welcome which had been accorded him that night, he should have thought it a dream indeed. He had always felt it a high honour to be a member of the Indian service. It was a service which, from small beginnings, raised and preserved for England an empire which has been governed as no other empire or colony has ever yet been governed. The recent campaign had exhibited most completely the amalgamation of the Indian and the English services. During the entire expedition no one thought for a moment to which service he belonged. He (Sir Robert Napier) had been called upon to command a mixed force of English and Indian soldiers sent from the shores of India, and he was perhaps the first Indian soldier who, from a simple Lieutenant, having nothing but his name and his sword to begin with, had won the high honour for which her Majesty had been pleased to designate him. He had thought seriously whether he should be wise in accepting the honour which he was informed was to be conferred upon him, and one great motive for his acceptance of it was, that it was conferred upon him as a member of the Indian service. Mr. Gladstone responded to the toast of "The Lords and Commons." He said they had met to unite in as joyful a celebration as history can possibly record, for they had had a just cause, managed and conducted by men who knew its justice, and were determined that it should not be sullied by the taint of cruelty or ambition. "Would to God," the right hon. gentleman added, "that but a small fraction of the wars that from time to time have stained the surface of the earth were attended with the same gratifying recollections as this!" Sir Stafford Northcote, in acknowledging the toast of his health, said that his interest in India was not an interest of twelve months' standing only, because he was brought up in an Indian family. His mother was born in India, and he was brought up among those who had taken an active part in the campaigns of Lord Cornwallis and who knew the Duke of Wellington when he was only Colonel Wellesley. It was, therefore, with no ordinary feelings that he had found himself brought into close relations with Indian duties. Sir Stafford dwelt at some length on the assistance he had received in the management of the Abyssinian expedition from his Council, from the Admiralty, from the War Office, and especially from the Commander-in-Chief. From the very commencement of the expedition, the personal interest which his Royal Highness took in it was most remarkable, and his steady faith and confidence in the General selected was equally remarkable. "It has been sometimes asked," Sir Stafford Northcote said, "Who selected the commander-in-chief for this expedition?" Well, I might almost say that Sir Robert Napier was selected by acclamation. His nomination came from two wholly independent quarters and from different parts of the world—from Sir John Lawrence in India and from the Duke of Cambridge at home. Those recommendations entirely settled the question. It was Sir John Lawrence, too, who in the first instance suggested not only that Sir Robert should command the expedition, but that all political authority should be intrusted to the same hands, and that we should put our entire trust in him. That principle was accepted at once by the Government, and it was the principle upon which this war has been carried on." Sir R. Napier said it was impossible for anyone in his position to have had more active and thorough support than he had received throughout his operations both from the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief. The toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" was acknowledged by Sir John Burgoyne.

OPPOSITE GRAY'S-INN-LANE, near where Middle-row formerly stood a cast-iron fluted pillar, supporting four lanterns and a fifth central one has been erected by the Metropolitan Board. A raised pavement has also been made at the foot of the lantern, fenced with pillars, to form a refuge for crossing passengers at this important point.

MR. HEPWORTH DIXON, in reply to a letter from the Marylebone Electoral Association, has declared himself in favour of manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, and compulsory education. As to the proposal that he should stand for the borough, Mr. Dixon says he has "never sought a seat in Parliament, for his mind revolts from the thought of seeking a market for ambition."

A NOVEL RACE was run, last week, between a horse and car and a velocipede. M. Carrere in a one-horse car, and M. Carcanade in a velocipede, started from Castres at twelve, and the victory was to be decided in favour of the person who first arrived in Toulouse. The race was a very keen one, M. Carrere having arrived in Toulouse at six, and M. Carcanade at 6.25.

SINCE BARRETT'S EXECUTION little or nothing has been heard of the Fenians or their works. On Monday afternoon, however, two young men, named Williamson (alias Cooke) and Blake, were brought up at Bow-street on a charge of treason-felony. Corydon, the informer, once more appeared upon the scene, and sufficient evidence having been taken to justify a remand, the prisoners were removed in custody.

MR. BRIGHT AT LIMERICK.—Mr. Bright was entertained at a *déjeuner* in the Athenaeum, at Limerick, on Tuesday afternoon, and was, at the same time, presented with an address. The hon. gentleman, in the course of his speech, cast a brief retrospective glance over the changes which have taken place in Ireland since his last visit to that country, and referred in pointed terms to the continued emigration, the existing discontent, and the repeated suspensions of the Habeas Corpus Act, as showing a condition of affairs which required the immediate and most earnest attention of the British Legislature. The Irish Church question formed the text of a large proportion of the hon. member's subsequent observations. Mr. Bright has declined an invitation to a banquet at Cork.

MARSHAL KEITH.—The Edinburgh correspondent of the *Ayrshire Express* states that "the King of Prussia is about to present a statue of Marshal Keith to the town of Peterhead. Previous to the rebellion of 1715 the Marshal was proprietor of all the land in the neighbourhood, including that on which the town is built. For the part he took in the rebellion, however, he forfeited his estates, which were then bought by a company of fishermen. This company became embarrassed, and the property fell into the hands of the Merchant Maiden Hospital in Edinburgh, which still derives a considerable portion of its revenue from the fees. After leaving this country, the Marshal went to Germany, and rose high into rank and favour in the Prussian service. Some time ago the Town Council of Peterhead learnt that a marble statue of Marshal Keith at Berlin had been replaced by one of bronze, and that the former was lying in a dilapidated condition in one of the military schools. They therefore made efforts to secure possession of the marble statue, but those proved ineffectual. Lately, however, a public-spirited citizen took the matter up, and brought it under the notice of Count Bismarck, who showed the letter to the King. His Majesty at once resolved to gratify the people of Peterhead, not by giving them the broken marble statue, but by presenting them with a new one in bronze, which is to be sent free to some convenient port in this country. This information was last week conveyed, through the Prussian Ambassador in London, to the gentleman who made the application."





THE ROYAL SPOILS FROM ABYSSINIA ON EXHIBITION AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.



### THE ROYAL SPOILS FROM ABYSSINIA.

THE Royal spoils recently sent home from Magdala by Sir Robert Napier are now on exhibition to the public, by command of her Majesty, at the South Kensington Museum. The most important of these, almost worthy of the title of *spolia opima*, are the robe, crown, and slippers of King Theodore. These all afford beautiful specimens of filigree ornamentation in silver, very much resembling that which is known to connoisseurs as Maltese work. The robe is ornamented with pieces of stamped silver, and both the robe and the crown have silver balls attached to them with barbaric silver pendants. There is also among the treasures another crown, but it is a very poor, tawdry thing, of crimson velvet, with a gilt ornament on the top, and a gold thread frieze or spiked border round it; and this is not to be compared with the other crown as a work of art. There is also a second robe, apparently of Indian workmanship, the warp being of gilt thread, the rest of silk, and embroidered with silk silver thread, in patterns of flowers. The ground is yellow, and the fashion of it is curious in the extreme. There are also three seals—one large gilt one, made, many years ago, by Messrs. Strongitharm, of Waterloo-place and Pall-mall, with a jasper handle; it has on it a monstrously-rude lion, and round it runs a legend, in Amharic characters, "Theodore, King of Abyssinia and Ethiopia: the King of Kings, Theodore." A second silver seal, of smaller size, has on it, in Arabic, a similar inscription. The third seal, larger in size, and also of silver, bears a Coptic inscription in the centre, the first words of which are "IRENE Metropolitae." Round it runs an inscription in Arabic, inclosing the sacred monogram, I.H.S., and with the Greek letter P before it. Of some of these articles the following description has been given by Lieutenant Prideaux, one of the captives at Magdala:—"The blue silk embroidered robe was intended by Theodore as a present to her Majesty, to accompany the embassy he desired to send to England. In Abyssinia it is called a 'burnoose,' and only worn by ladies of the highest rank when on the march. The silver slippers were also intended to be presented to her Majesty. The damask silk robe was made lately by order of Theodore, and worn by him on April 8 only, when he received the captives who descended from Magdala to Salangé by his orders. It was then probably put on for effect, as he wished much to encourage his soldiers that morning. The crimson velvet crown was made by Theodore's orders at the time of his coronation at Axum. It was never worn by him for several years before his death. The red cloth cap is simply a Turkish 'Tarboosh,' covered with silver gilt filigree work. It was never worn by Theodore to my knowledge. The large seal bearing the inscription in Amharic, 'Theodorus, King of the Kings of Ethiopia,' and a similar one in Arabic, was that used by him on all his letters. The two small silver seals were probably the property of



MATCHLOCK M&amp;N OF ENDERLA, TIGRE, ABYSSINIA.

the Metropolitan. One, the larger, bears an inscription in Coptic and Arabic, and is about 200 years old. The smaller is of recent manufacture, not more than ten years, and bears an Arabic inscription."

### SKETCHES IN ABYSSINIA.

MATCHLOCK MEN OF THE PROVINCE OF  
ENDERLA, IN TIGRE.

ALMOST all savage tribes when first they come in contact with the white man, either in the chase or in actual war, admire first his power of inflicting death at a distance at which their native weapons, whether spear or arrow, would be utterly useless—the smoke, the flash, and the report are considered a part of the actual danger, and they will charge as the Kaffirs did in 1819 up to the very smoke of our soldiers' muskets and then halt in terror, holding their leather mantles to screen their faces from the scorching flame, and wonder to see men untouched by the fire and wounded by no visible weapon. They soon, however, learn that the leaden bullet is the real messenger of death, and covet the possession of the gun, with which, if they meet us in war, they are at first much less to be feared than if they had retained only their native weapons.

In Kaffirland, and other parts, where the introduction of firearms is of comparatively recent date, the old musket, with its stout and servicable flint lock, is the favourite weapon; but in Abyssinia, where the Portuguese auxiliaries fought for the Christian Emperors against the Mohammedans in 1541, the matchlock of early times is still retained by many of the native warriors, who, doubtless, were as much surprised by the rapidity with which our troops reload, as their forefathers were by the first sight of a gun. Loading with them is a work of several minutes. Mansfield Parkyns describes them as carrying their powder in hollow canes, pouring out a small quantity into the hollow of the hand, measuring it with the eye, putting back a little if it seems too much or adding more if it is not enough, and, when at last they are satisfied, pouring the whole into the gun-barrel, and testing the amount of charge by inserting the ramrod and measuring the projecting end. Then comes the wrapping up of the rough iron bar or bullet, much smaller than the bore of the gun, in a bit of rag and ramming it down, the rod often sticking in the folds of the rag, so that for some time it cannot be withdrawn. If the alarm is sudden, perhaps one gunner cannot find his steel or another his flint; then it takes time to strike a light, to blow the end of the match, to cut it to its proper length, to prime the gun and fix the match in its holder, and to drive into the ground a rest made of a staff of the male bamboo shod with an iron spike, and having two or three of its forks left on for the purpose of steadying the gun. A dashing charge of cavalry would of course disconcert all these preparations; but, when once made, they are by no means to be despised, and the Abyss-



ABYSSINIAN SALT TRADERS.



sinian horsemen will generally avoid the conflict when they hear the gunners already driving in their rears. The gunners often wear the sword on the left side, the lancers and bearers of shields always on the right.

#### THE SALT TRADE OF ABYSSINIA.

IN England, accustomed as we are to the extreme cheapness of salt, we can hardly estimate the value of it in countries less plentifully supplied. Our expressions, "Not worth his salt," or "He would not earn salt to a red herring," find no equivalent in Eastern nations. There, on the contrary, the partaking of salt with a man is a token of friendship and hospitality. "To eat the salt" of any person signifies to be employed and maintained by him; and many other phrases and customs remind us of its great value. In Abyssinia salt is the small currency of the country; and along the low country, between the eastern face of the highlands and the Red Sea, are numerous and extensive shallow lakes, or pans, from which in the rainy season the water draws from the earth a quantity of salt which crystallises on the surface as the country dries. This is collected by the various tribes, and carried on camels, mules, or donkeys, through the rivers and torrent-beds, up to the highlands of Abyssinia, where, in bars something like a mower's whetstone, weighing two or three pounds each, it is used as money, and becomes so valuable as it is carried further inland, that only a few bars are given as the price of a slave.

Our illustration represents a party of the Danakil tribe loading their camels on the banks of the salt lake, Bahr Assal. Here M. Bernatz, who visited the country about 1840, states that the salt forms a crust as the water evaporates, so thick that it cannot everywhere be broken even by heavy stones. It is packed in narrow bags, about 3 ft. long, plaited by the women, from strips of a species of palm-leaf, and is carried by camels on saddles of primitive and peculiar construction—four rough poles being lashed to the sides of the camel and padded where requisite. Their lower ends project below the animal's belly, so as to touch the ground when he lies down, and support the weight of the cargo, and thus enable the animal to rest without being unloaded.

#### AN UNPUBLISHED POEM BY MILTON.

PROFESSOR HENRY MORLEY has addressed the following communication to the *Times* :—

Sir,—As the discovery of an unpublished poem by Milton is matter of interest to all readers, and the authenticity of such a poem cannot be too strictly and generally tested, I shall be obliged if you will give publicity to the fact that such a poem has been found. It exists in the handwriting of Milton himself, on a blank page in the volume of "Poems: both English and Latin," which contains his "Comus," "Lycidas," "L'Allegro," and "Il Penseroso." It is signed with his initials, and dated October, 1647. It was discovered in this manner:—I had undertaken to contribute a small pleasure-book of literature to a cheap popular series, and in forming such a volume from the writings of the poets who lived in the time of Charles I. and the Commonwealth, where I did not myself possess original editions of their works to quote from, I looked for them in the reading-room of the British Museum. Fortunately it did not seem to me useless to read a proof containing passages from Milton with the help of the original edition of his English and Latin poems published in 1645. There are two copies of that book in the Museum—one in the general library, which would be the edition commonly consulted, and the other in the noble collection formed by George III., known as the King's Library, which was the copy I referred to. The volume contains first the English, then the Latin, poems of that first period of Milton's life, each separately pagged. The Latin poems end on page 87, leaving the reverse of the leaf blank; and this blank I found covered with handwriting, which to anyone familiar with the collection of facsimiles in the late Mr. Sotheby's "Rambles in Elucidation of the Autograph of Milton," would, I think, convey at first glance the impression it conveyed to me, that this was the handwriting of John Milton.

It proved to be a transcript of a poem in fifty-four lines, which Milton, either for himself or some friend, had added to this volume. It is entitled simply "An Epitaph," and signed by him "J. M., Ober, 1647." He was then in his thirty-ninth year. As the page is about the size of a leaf of note-paper, the handwriting is small. Thirty-six lines were first written, which filled the left hand side of the page, then a line was lightly drawn to the right of them, and the book being turned sideways, the rest of the poem was packed into three little columns, eight lines in each of the first two columns, and the other two lines at the top of the third column, followed by the initials and date. Upon the small blank space left in this corner of the page the Museum stamp is affixed, covering a part of Milton's signature. The book is in the one place in the world where it is most accessible to the scrutiny of experts, and inquiry will no doubt be made into its history. Its press mark is 238 h. 35 in the King's Library. The poem, I think, speaks for itself. I need hardly add that the following copy of it has the M.S. contractions expanded and the spelling modernised; but it should be stated that the word here printed "chest," as the rhyme shows it was meant to be pronounced, was written "cist," and that the last three syllables of the last line but two, though close to the edge of the binding and almost effaced by the sticking to them of some paper from the cover, are consistent, in the few marks that are visible, with the reading here conjectured and placed within brackets.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
HENRY MORLEY.  
University College, London, July 14.

#### AN EPITAPH.

He whom Heaven did call away  
Out of this Hermitage of clay  
Has left some reliques in this Urn  
As a pledge of his return.

Meanwhile the Muses do deplore  
The loss of this their paramour,  
Whom he sported ere the day  
Budded forth his tender ray.  
And now Apollo leaves his lays  
And puts on cypress for his bays;  
The sacred sisters tune their quills  
Only to the blubbing rills.  
And while his doom they think upon  
Make their own tears their Helicon,  
Leaving the two-top Mount divine  
To turn votaries to his shrine.

Think not, reader, me less blest,  
Sleeping in this narrow chest,  
Than if my ashes did lie hid  
Under some stately pyramid.  
If a rich tomb makes happy, then  
That Bee was happier far than men,  
Who, busy in the thymy wood,  
Was fettered by the golden flood,  
Which from the Amber-weeping tree  
Distilled down so plenteously:  
For so this little wanton elf  
Most gloriously enshrined itself.

A tomb whose beauty might compare  
With Cleopatra's sepulchre.

In this little bed my dust  
Incurtailed round I here intrust;  
While my more pure and nobler part  
Lies entomb'd in every heart.

Then pass on gently, ye that mourn,  
Touch not this mine hollowed Urn;  
These Ashes which do here remain  
A vital tincture still retain;  
A seminal form within the deeps  
Of this little chaos sleeps;  
The thread of life untwisted is  
Into its first existencies;  
Infant nature cradled here  
In its principles appear;  
This plant though entered into dust  
In its Ashes rest it must  
Until sweet Psyche shall inspire  
A softening and æthereal fire,  
And in her fostering arms unfold  
This heavy and this earthly mould.  
Then as I am I'll be no more  
But bloom and blossom [as] [before]  
When this cold numbness shall retreat  
By a more than chymic heat.

J. M., Ober, 1647.

THE CONVICT PARSONS, whose story was told in a petition presented to Parliament the other day, turns out to have been an old and hardened offender, who had been several times convicted of burglary and other crimes committed at Worcester and elsewhere.

THE INHABITANTS OF JASZHERENYI, in Hungary, are said to be living in daily expectation of an earthquake, of which they consider several subterranean rumblings they have lately heard the premonitory symptoms. They have abandoned their houses, and now live night and day in the open air.

THE PREMIER'S POLICY.—It is certain that the Disraeli Cabinet will meet Parliament in a minority. The question to be solved is, will Mr. Gladstone, under these circumstances, defeat the Government, and assume office in December next? This is doubtful, because if the issue turn on the Irish Church question, it may be almost taken for certain that Mr. Disraeli will accept the verdict of the country, as he has done before, and that he will himself, rather than let the sed duty be performed by his opponents, propose the disestablishment of the Irish Church. Certainly the suggestion will not be made in those words. Mr. Disraeli will probably be prepared with a measure for the re-education, or the reconstruction, or the making beautiful for ever of the Protestant Establishment. He will educate his party still further, and as he has made them wise in things temporal, so will he make them little less than infallible in things religious. They will learn, and will thus be able to prove to demonstration, that the true foundations of a Church are not Church foundations, and that the edifice of the Protestant religion is built upon a more solid basis than the glitzying dross which constitutes tithes and endowments. Such trifles are beneath the consideration of earnest religionists. Mr. Disraeli will propose to restore to the Church the purity and the poverty of the Apostles; whilst he will assure the perpetuation of its existence upon the guarantee of the empire and the rock of Tory faith. He has such pretty phrases. But the gist of his plan will be to disarm his opponents by stealing their weapons, and then inviting them to mortal combat.—*Orel*.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN visited the Galatea, at Portsmouth, on Tuesday, in company with a large party of the Royal family. Her Majesty was received by the Duke of Edinburgh, who introduced her to all the officers of the ship. In the evening the Prince of Wales dined with the Duke, and the ship was illuminated.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES is now so far advanced in convalescence that no further bulletins will be issued.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA arrived at Osborne last Saturday, on a visit to her Majesty.

THE LITTLE PRINCE ALMAVIVA, Theodore's son, arrived on Tuesday, in the *Urgent*, at Plymouth, accompanied by Captain Speedy and suite.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER'S ELEVATION TO THE PEERAGE was announced in Tuesday's *Gazette*. His Lordship's title is Baron Napier of Magdala, in Abyssinia, and of Caryngton, in the county palatine of Chester.

MR. LONGFELLOW, who has been the guest of Mr. Dickens, at Gadshill, has paid a visit to Mr. Tennyson, in the Isle of Wight.

GENERAL STAVELEY, K.C.B., has been appointed to the command of the western district.

THE REV. DR. JACOB is about to resign the Head Mastership of Christ's Hospital.

ADELINA PATTI will be married to the Marquis de Caux on Aug. 1.

EARL GROSVENOR has published an appeal for funds to aid in the erection of drinking-troughs in the streets for the relief of thirsty cattle, dogs, &c.

THE SECOND LORD DUNFERMLINE, an amiable, sound-headed, and high principled man, died, at Colinton House, near Edinburgh, on Sunday evening.

THE HON. AND REV. BAPTIST NOEL, upon retiring from the pastorate of Bedford-row Chapel, which he has held since he relinquished his connection with the Church of England, nearly twenty years ago, was, on Wednesday, presented by his congregation with 1000 guineas. The rev. gentleman completed his seventieth year on Thursday.

MR. CHARLES BROOK, of Enderby Hall, has offered to build and endow a convalescent hospital in connection with the Huddersfield Infirmary, at a cost of £30,000.

MR. AUBURN HERBERT, the popular candidate for Berkshire, received the Danish Order of the Danebrog, corresponding to our Victoria Cross, for having, in the Danish war, carried off some wounded Danes under fire, at the risk of his own life. He has also received the medal of the Royal National Life-boat Institution for gallantly going off, during a storm, in its life-boat at Cromer, with the view of saving a shipwrecked crew.

MR. RALPH ASHETON, a Conservative, was returned for Clitheroe, on Monday, without opposition, in succession to Mr. Fort, a Liberal, deceased. The Liberal party did not consider it expedient to contest the seat, but Mr. C. S. Roundell will appeal to the enlarged constituency at the general election.

M. CHARLES HUGO is in Paris to make arrangements for the publication of a new work by his father, to be called "The Exiles."

MR. BAXTER LANGLEY withdraws from his candidature for Greenwich "in loyalty to our great Liberal leader." In the event of Mr. Gladstone electing to sit for South Lancashire he will re-enter the field. General Sir W. Coddington has adopted a like course.

MR. G. G. GLYN, the active and efficient whip of the Liberal party, has been compelled to absent himself from his Parliamentary duties by somewhat severe indisposition.

THE POST-OFFICE SAVING BANKS in 1867 received £4,877,264, paid £3,248,510, and have £9,749,929 capital remaining.

MR. SEELY, M.P., has, it is said, given £270,000 for 300 acres of coal-field adjoining his colliery in Derbyshire.

THE DIGNITY OF THE COIF has been conferred upon Mr. W. Campbell Sleight, of the Home Circuit. The new Serjeant was called to the bar in January, 1846.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, who is at present residing in Canada, while descending the stairs of the hotel in which he lodges, fell and injured his back. Mr. Davis had one of his children in his arms at the time.

THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AT BRUSSELS has prohibited the use of nitro-glycerine in Belgium.

A SOLDIER OF THE ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY was struck by a flash of lightning while walking in Woolwich on Sunday evening. He was rendered quite blind, and had to be led to the barracks.

THE PARLIAMENT OF KING KAMEHAMEHA has, with his consent and approbation, voted a subsidy of 25,000 dolrs. a year to a steam line between the Sandwich group and San Francisco.

THE WHEAT CROP IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND will, it is expected, be one of the finest ever known, on account of the quantity of sunlight to which it has been exposed.

A LARGE DIAMOND, found by a Griqua near the Vaal river, has been forwarded to the Colonial Office at the Cape. It weighs 154 carats, and is valued at about £400. Several others have been found in the vicinity of the Vaal river.

Huddersfield has at length received its charter of incorporation from the Home Office, and the first election of councillors will take place on Sept. 4, and of the mayor and aldermen three days afterwards.

ARENDAL, in Norway, has been devastated by a very serious fire, which has laid in ruins nearly a hundred houses. We do not hear that there was any loss of life.

THE UNCLAIMED WAGES OF DECEASED SEAMEN, paid into the Consolidated Fund during the year 1867, amounted to £7783 6s. The fines and forfeitures for desertion, &c., amounted to £349 11s. 7d.

THE LABOURERS ENGAGED IN PIERCING THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL struck work the other day at Bardonnè he for an increase of wages. No acts of violence were committed, and it is hoped that an arrangement will be come to.

TWO MEN, named Hook and Why, and a child, three years old, have died, at Windsor, from sunstroke.

AT AMIENS, on Sunday, during the races, one of the stands gave way, and about fifty persons were precipitated to the ground with the debris of the building. One woman was killed, and several persons were severely wounded.

MONDAY NEXT is the last day for the payment of rates and taxes due on Jan. 5, to entitle a person to be put on the list of voters for the next registration. Both assessed taxes and parochial rates must be paid on or before the 20th inst.

A CERTAIN CLERGYMAN IN THE NORTH said, the other day, that it was by eating the forbidden fruit that toothache was first caused.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has addressed a second despatch to the great Powers urging that the use of explosive missiles in war should be prohibited in a protocol to be drawn up and signed by their representatives at St. Petersburg.

THE HOLSTEIN, which brought an American mail last week, made the passage from New York to Southampton in nine days and four hours, which is the quickest passage that has yet been made.

THE EXPENSES OF THE IRISH RAILWAY COMMISSION amounted to no less than £22,505 11s. 3d. (of this sum the remuneration of three of the commissioners and the secretary was £3225, the office expenses, printing, and incidental, £2298 5s. 7d., and the travelling expenses, £3255 7s. 9d.)

THROUGH TICKETS are now issued by the Isle of Wight Steam-packet Company at Southampton every Saturday to last until Monday, by which persons can enjoy Sunday at the most beautiful parts at the back of the Isle of Wight, such as Brading, Sandown, Shanklin, and Ventnor.

A CONSIDERABLE TRADE IN ICE has been lately organised by a person named Robatel, residing near Martigny. The ice from the glaciers, having been sawn into regular cubes of small volume and perfect transparency, is packed in boxes, and sent off by fast trains to various centres of population in France, and arrives with very little waste.

A BRICKLAYER NAMED KEMP, residing at Princethorpe, near Coventry, and who is said to have been in a desponding state of mind for some time past, murdered his son, a boy only twelve years of age, on Monday, by cutting his throat as he lay sleeping in bed.

A LARGE TRACK of the vegetation covering Rombold and other moors, on the range of hills lying between the Aire and the Wharfe, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, was, on Sunday, destroyed by fire, the result either of accident or design. The fire raged from morning till night, and the dense volume of smoke which arose was conspicuous from long distances.

PETROLEUM OIL possesses the highest efficacy as a destroyer of all kinds of insects injurious to plants or animals, and the less purified, and, consequently, the cheaper it is, the better. Thirty parts should be mixed with 1000 of water, and applied where required. The *Medical Times* states that house-velvet may be destroyed by introducing into the holes or cracks a few drops of petroleum.

MURPHY, the anti-Popery lecturer, was apprehended at Bolton on Tuesday night, and a great deal of excitement was manifested by the populace, both in favour of and against him. The magistrates had issued an order prohibiting the lectures which had been announced. In order to be prepared for whatever emergency may arise, the police of the town have been reinforced by the addition of 150 men, all armed with cutlasses.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS at Cassaro, in Sicily, have disclosed the remains of what must have been a very extensive Syracusan colony. The external wall, the greater portion of which has been traced, was nearly 7 ft. thick and 6000 ft. in circumference. The town appears to have been divided into four quarters, in one of which the vestiges of a fine temple have been discovered.

#### THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"KEEP the Tory out!" If that is the rule which ought to guide voters, surely it is the rule which also ought to guide candidates. But, if so, why is Mr. M'Arthur a candidate for Lambeth? Putting aside Mr. Doulton, who will probably retire, there were two Liberal candidates in the field before Mr. M'Arthur appeared, Mr. Thomas Hughes and Mr. Lawrence: why should another offer himself? Lambeth does not return three members. It surely is satisfied with Mr. Hughes. If it be not, it ought to be; and Lawrence was in the field before M'Arthur. Now, if these three candidates keep the field, it is not improbable that a Tory may slip in; and in that case it will be a charge against Mr. M'Arthur that he was the cause. Again, it is understood that Lawrence is safe; and therefore, Doulton out of the way, the struggle will be between Hughes and M'Arthur. But why should these two fight?—in the main, their politics are the same—or, rather, why should M'Arthur try to oust Hughes? for that is how the matter stands. It is not creditable to Mr. M'Arthur that he is trying to do this. Lambeth honoured itself when it returned Mr. Hughes; and Mr. Hughes, as all men who have watched his course in Parliament know, has done his duty to Lambeth; and I, for one, sincerely hope that Lambeth will not disgrace itself by exchanging its honest, conscientious, faithful, and able member for Mr. M'Arthur. Not that I know anything against Mr. M'Arthur. I know nothing of him at all except that he is one of the Sheriffs of the city of London. What I say is this: Lawrence is safe, and Mr. M'Arthur ought, on two grounds, not to stand for Lambeth: first, because Mr. Hughes is a very capital member; and next, because, by persisting in standing, Mr. M'Arthur may let a Tory in. One word more. Mr. Hughes has announced that he will spend no money. Honour to him, therefore. It is rumoured that, hearing this, Mr. M'Arthur saw, or thought he saw, that if he went to Lambeth and conducted his election in the usual way, he should be able to gain an easy victory. Now, if this be true, is it fair? Is it patriotic? Surely every patriotic man ought to rejoice to see a man like Mr. Hughes thus battling nobly against a corrupt system. And every patriotic man does rejoice, and wish Mr. Hughes success; and every patriotic man laments and mourns to see a gentleman calling himself a Liberal coming into the field—not merely to oust Mr. Hughes out of his seat, but to do something even worse. Mr. Hughes is ambitious to show the world that a gentleman may get into Parliament as the representative of a populous borough without expending a shilling. Mr. M'Arthur steps in to disappoint this noble ambition.

These railway people require to be vigilantly looked after. During the controversy regarding the South of England Railways Amalgamation Bill, Mr. Watkin, chairman of the South-Eastern Company, boasted of the benefits the public derived from "well-made well managed, and well-served lines;" and, if all these "wells" were real "springs," I should be inclined to agree with him. But, unluckily, they are not. Some of our railways may be well made; though that is doubtful; but, certainly, few of them are either well managed or well served. In fact, they are the very reverse. If railways had been well managed, there would have been fewer of them either bankrupt or paying little or no dividend. If they were well served, we should have fewer complaints from those who travel on them. I know that the "typical Englishman"—to borrow a phrase from Mr. John Morley—is a grumbling animal; but he is also a patient, long-suffering animal; and, though he often threatens to "write to the papers," he seldom does so in reality until he has a serious grievance to complain of. Now, as scarcely a day passes but we find some one pouring his sorrows into the editorial ear, and demanding redress against the usage inflicted by railway people, it is fair to conclude that a good deal is endured at the hands of said railway people of which we never hear a word. Enough, however, comes to the public ear to show that many—if not most—railways are very indifferently managed and served indeed. There is, for instance, the South-Western, whose trains, if we are to credit indignant customers, rarely keep their time, but whose directors omit no opportunity of charging extra fares. Then there is the Great Eastern, on whose Epping branch it is positively unsafe to travel on a Sunday, whose officers have no control over the stations, which are taken possession of by roughs and thieves, who maltreat and rob everyone having an appearance of respectability or possessing anything worth taking. Lastly—to travel no further afield just at present—there is Mr. Watkin's own line, the South-Eastern, of which many complaints are made. We hear continually of high fares and scant accommodation on that line. Some of these complaints are, perhaps, unfounded or exaggerated; but others decidedly are not. Mr. Watkin and his colleagues are thorough despots in their way, and seem to be more anxious for petty revenges than either to suit public convenience or promote the interests of their shareholders. As a specimen of this, I may adduce the course pursued since the refusal of the House of Lords to give authority for increasing the fares on the South-Eastern, Brighton, and Chatham and Dover lines. These three companies some time ago, as everybody knows, entered into a working union, which they sought to have legalised by Act of Parliament—at least, that was the ostensible object of the bill brought before the Legislature; but the real purpose, as events proved, was to obtain power to increase the fares, and to be enabled to make extravagant extra charges for the use of the metropolitan stations. While the bill was pending certain Brighton trains were allowed to run into the Cannon-street station, to the great convenience of travellers by that line. But the public opposed the amalgamation—or rather increase-of-fares—scheme, and Mr. Watkin and his colleagues have taken revenge for being thus baffled by stopping the admission of Brighton trains to the City terminus. That is a specimen of how the South-Eastern directors strive to accommodate the public. They have also, as has already been pointed out in your columns, stopped access to the City from the south-western district by closing the connection with the Waterloo station. And even on their own line the accommodation they provide is nothing to boast of. The service between Charing-cross and Cannon-street I admit to be excellent, and so is that on the Greenwich branch. The time is kept most punctually, and the carriages are large, airy, and clean. But this cannot be said for the North and Mid Kent lines, especially the former. To begin with, the number of carriages in the trains—at least, in some of them—are often too few, and a scramble for places is the result. I was present the other evening when an extra passenger forced himself into a carriage, and what nearly approached to a serious quarrel was the consequence. Then the platforms at some stations are much too short—notably the North Kent down platform at Lewisham—and passengers have to get out upon the side of the line, and scramble up to the platform how they can. Sometimes trains are moved on after the passengers in the leading carriages have alighted, and sometimes they are not; and the consequence is that you have to run the risk of injury by getting down beyond the platform, or take the chance, if you hesitate to do so, of being carried on to the next station, Blackheath. What wretched things, moreover, some of the third-class carriages are! Why, they are more like horseboxes than places for human beings to travel in. They are close, confined, stuffy, low-roofed, narrow, and not over-clean dens, travelling in which, in this hot weather particularly, is excessively uncomfortable. The station accommodation, again, is far from being satisfactory or convenient; and, altogether, I can assure Mr. Watkin that a good deal requires to be reformed on his line ere it can be described as either well managed or well served, although he assumes, in all his public deliverances, that it is in all respects a model of perfection. It is this last fact that has provoked me to make these comments, in which I have given prominence to the grievances of third-class passengers, because first and second class travellers, being better able to take care of themselves generally receive greater consideration.



## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

## THE MAGAZINES.

I observe your able and well-informed contributor, the "Lounge at the Clubs," thinks the Liberal prospect in the next Parliament a good one. So thinks not Mr. John Morley, of the *Fortnightly Review*, in an article entitled "The Political Prelude." I hesitate to differ from your contributor, because I believe he is the man to give you the "straight tip," if anybody is; but, upon my word, Sir, I lean to the Morley view of the subject. One does not expect that Mr. Gladstone's majority will be much less, if at all; but is there any reason to expect a really better set of men in the new House? Is there any reason to think it will be really the Parliament of the new constituencies? This is not a column in which I could give reasons for saying no to these questions; but Mr. Morley has given a few, and he might have added others. Another interesting and carefully-thought article is that by Mr. Robert Giffen, on "The Question of Central Asia," by far the most complete and careful discussion of the Russo-Indian question I have yet seen. Mr. Swinburne, in "Notes on Designs of the Old Masters at Florence," is, of course, Mr. Swinburne—writing, here, with all his usual splendour, and more than his usual compactness.

The *Contemporary*, besides a poem by Mr. Lancaster ("Philoctetes," &c.) which may stand beside the best things of its kind, contains, among other papers, an article by Mr. Bernard Cracroft claiming for Mr. Gladstone the very foremost rank in the political activities demanded by the day. It is an exceedingly energetic paper, and every intelligent Liberal will thank Mr. Cracroft for it. Mr. Brooke F. Westcott writes too much in what I call the as-it-were-and-as-far-as-it-goes vein for my taste; but his summary is able, and is the result of much candid reading of Comte.

In *Chambers's Journal* a new story, entitled "Blond Parva," is begun by a pen which the attentive reader will at once connect with those brilliant articles that so often lead off in this magazine. The story I have not read, but I seldom fail to read the articles, they are so good, and are sure to make you laugh. Give me—oh! give me the feuilletoniste who can do that without making a buffoon of himself, and I will wear him in my heart's core, ay, in my heart of hearts, as I do thee, Horatio (Shakespeare).

The *Student* and *Intellectual Observer* must not be confounded with the other Dromio—the *London Student*. The latter has no pictures, to begin with; the former has very good pictures, and is altogether more varied and less special than the *London Student*. The latter, indeed, may be out of existence for what I know; at all events, it is not before me.

The *People's Magazine* has, like the *Student*, capital illustrations, and it is well printed on good paper. The literature, too, is thoroughly good of the kind; and, if I don't speak as warmly of it as of some other things, it is because I have a prejudice against general literature flavoured with homily. "If floggee, massa, floggee; but no preachies and floggee too." It is not one person in a million—indeed, it is only a man of genius—who can successfully—i.e., without nauseating even serious readers (of taste)—give what is called a "religious tone" to general topics.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

We have had a week of theatrical depression, consequent on the intolerably oppressive weather. Mr. Sothorn has taken his last leap from the Elfen Tower; Mr. Buckstone, *per se*, has delivered his whimsical address, and Mr. Buckstone, *filia*, has been introduced to a London public. I have seen "Caste," without Miss Marie Wilton, at the PRINCE OF WALES'S; and was one of a very limited audience at the ADELPHI, where not even the vivacity of Charles Mathews or the energy of the little Miss Harris can give a new lease of life to "The Bachelor of Arts." All London knows that the Adelphi is the last theatre in London for light comedy and lighter farce, but London has long ago ceased to wonder at any eccentricity in the Adelphi management. It is one thing to placard town with invitations to an essentially melodramatic house and offer them a light Olympic bill of fare, but it is quite another thing to get the public to respond to the invitation. I thought the new blood infused into the poor old dingy Adelphi at Christmas had done it good service, but, after seeing "Hamlet" there the other day and in it "a set" from "The School for Scandal," I begin to fear that the authorities are returning to their old slipshod ways. Mr. Webster is playing at the STANDARD, and we all know the old saying about the cat and the mice.

I went to the CRYSTAL PALACE on Saturday, and was rather curious to see what would be the effect of all the stinging newspaper comments anent the Dramatic College Fête. The press has awakened at last, and this year the press hit the managers of the college and the concoctors of "the Revels" pretty hard. I am quite sure that every well-wisher of the drama must have been sincerely gratified at the result of the fête on Saturday. It was a failure. There is no getting over it. Remember, I am not speaking now in a pound-shilling-and-penny point of view. I do not know how much money was taken at the doors of the palace, nor what fancy sums were expended on photographs and other valuables at the stalls. The various shows may have yielded a fine harvest to the charity; but, for all that, the Dramatic College Fête of 1868 was a failure. The stalls were few, and scantily furnished with goods. The stallkeepers, with one or two exceptions, were those with whose names the playgoing public is unfamiliar. There was certainly a great improvement in one respect, and that was the absence of those questionable girls who on former occasions have paraded the palace with flowers, rendering themselves a positive nuisance to the public and a disgrace to the profession to which they were supposed to belong. Those charming female jockeys, so conspicuous on a former occasion, had also been banished. However, in wedding the "revels" of much that was objectionable, the authorities succeeded in eradicating all the little amount of fun that had existed on former occasions. In vain did Mr. Ashley, in a succession of humorous addresses, invite the public to walk up and witness the drollery of Mr. Toole and "that distinguished young amateur," Mr. Paul Bedford. The public did walk up and was immensely amused, as it was also with Mr. J. Clarke as Macbeth; but the general air that pervaded the assembly and building was one of depression. On looking round the stalls and missing so many well-remembered names and faces, it seemed as though the meeting was to celebrate solemnly the memories of those who had once lent so much light and brightness to the scene. In spite of all that was once done to render these gatherings agreeable, it was always my opinion that the whole thing was a mistake. Actors and actresses should not make themselves too cheap. They are seen to most advantage when "the float" is between them and the audience. In the same way that they have a right to claim exemption from all criticism as to what they may think fit to do off the stage, so should they never invite public attention to themselves in any but their professional capacity. It is as great a mistake to let the public see anything but the stage version of them as it would be to show children the wires by which the fantoccini is worked. As regards the Dramatic College itself, it is at best a questionable boon to confer on actors in their old age a shelter which involves banishment from all they take most delight in. The building would be far better devoted to a school for the children of actors, conducted on the principle of a foundation school, whilst the aged recipients of the bounty of the charity would be far more happy with a pension of a few shillings a week and a lodging within a quarter of a mile of Covent-garden. The general aspect of the visitors on Saturday was in keeping with the show—a decided falling off both as to numbers and class. I only hope that the committee may devise some other means of raising funds, and then set to work to alter the present mode of relieving the wants of those who are the objects of its philanthropic exertions.

Several theatrical novelties appear to be looming in the distance. Mr. H. J. Byron—full of industry—gives us "The Lancashire Lass," at the QUEEN'S, and "John Denman's Debt," as well as a

new burlesque, at the HOLBORN. Mr. Boucicault promises a new melodrama at the PRINCESS'S, which formed the subject of some remarkable letters from that gifted author to the newspapers. Mr. Andrew Halliday is dramatising the "Fortunes of Nigel," for DRURY LANE, in which Mr. Phelps is to play two characters and excite all the Scotchmen in London.

## FINE ARTS.

## EXHIBITION OF MODERN PICTURES, DUDLEY GALLERY.

THE collection of modern pictures of the English, French, and Belgian schools, at the Dudley Gallery, is one of the most attractive of our exhibitions this year; and though the examples of British art are necessarily more numerous than those of foreign schools, there are specimens of so many of our best artists that we may well congratulate ourselves on having so good an opportunity for studying their beauties. Perhaps the first picture which arrests attention on entering the gallery and beginning faithfully with the Catalogue is "The Giaour," by Ary Scheffer. It is true that there is a picture by Millais, staring us in the face as we come towards the screen near the door, but though it is a large work, it cannot be said to claim attention; it is a conventional picture, with a rather genteel St. John and a well-to-do St. Peter, but it expresses nothing whatever. The same may, perhaps, be said of the "Bivouac of Cupid," a picture exhibited at the Art-Treasures Exhibition of Manchester, and a striking example of the plump long-necked nudes for which Etty was always famous. In Mr. J. S. Calcott's picture, "Beatrice Cenci Receiving the Visit of Guido," there is admirable handling, but that also is another example of want of force and expression. The same must be said of Mr. W. Cave Thomas's representation of the parable of the heir of the vineyard; added to which we find the beautiful parable itself altogether distorted in an attempt to translate it on canvas by making Christ himself the central figure, and a number of Jews, who resemble anything rather than vine-dressers, thrusting him out of a kind of inclosed garden, where there are indications of vines growing. It may not be in accordance with the ordinary rules of dilettante criticism to say so, but, for our part, we cannot believe that any skill in colour or power in drawing can altogether compensate for this utter lack of conception. The picture by which Mr. Millais obtained the Academy gold medal is exhibited here—"The Tribe of Benjamin Seizing the Daughters of Shiloh"—and its realism is to be commended, though we can scarcely identify in imagination those chubby, swarth-skinned young men with the Eastern youth who grew lean and sinewy in the sun, and were not over troubled with clothes. Mr. Mark Anthony's "Leaving Church" is one of those painstaking compositions which almost appear to be worked in a sampler. His "Village Festival" is more pleasing, and is elaborated with a wonderful rendering of a number of figures, and, as it were, a mixture of two schools of painting, but has not succeeded in attaining to the ease of one nor to the precision of the other. "The Pursuit of Pleasure," by Sir Noel Paton, is a fine bit of figure-drawing in his own style; and Mr. Buxall's "Rebecca" is already familiar from the fact of its having been engraved. Mr. G. D. Leslie's "Country Cousin" is just one of those beautiful, old-style, cool-tinted, speaking figures which might be portraits, but are too full of suggestive sentiment to be classed with mere portrait-painting. A little bit by Mulready, "A Girl Feeding Chickens," is just the sort of thing we should like to buy; and the same may be said of Mr. J. Hayllar's "Gossip"—a Normandy knitter and her young fisherman discussing goodness knows what of pleasant scandal or more pleasant small talk. Mr. J. Stirling gives us a version of "Olivia at the Talking Oak," which will attract most young ladies and not a few young gentlemen; for it is a "pretty picture," well harmonised in colour and in admirable keeping. A small picture of two little "Crochet-workers," by Mr. Edward Davis, brings us pleasantly to another "sweet" picture, Mr. Josh. Corman's "Novel-reader"—a really charming bit of cool, even colouring and graceful drawing, which is only equalled by his "Toilet," a composition showing wonderful skill in the handling of those delicate pearly green and ashen shades which are so effective when the artist has an eye for their due relation. Mr. Clint's "Farren and Mrs. Jarman in 'The School for Scandal'" is another attractive picture, full of the green-room—but the refined, elegant, and high-comedy green-room—element. Just beneath it is one of the most remarkable studies in the exhibition: a little girl's head, or rather half-length, the hand holding a fork, the face bold, open-eyed, half remorseful, half defiant, wholly tearless. The name of the picture is "Supperless," and the story is told by the face as well as though a long description had been printed in the catalogue. Mr. C. Leslie has contributed a "Blue Girl"—a marvel as an example of colour, but as disagreeable in tone as all Blue Girls must be. "How Delicious is the Winning of a Kiss at Love's Beginning!" is Mr. Orchardson's title for a mediæval picture, where a slim and graceful-legged gentleman is illustrating the insinuation by ocular reference to as charming a young lady as ever defied the approach of a crossish old duenna. The drawing of this picture is as admirable as Mr. Orchardson's work always is in this respect; but there is a sense of coldness, bareness—shall we say chalkiness?—in colour which, though it diminishes as we look, is yet too obvious. Mr. Redgrave's scene from "Pilgrim's Progress" is admirable in execution, but so lacks expression, so fails to suggest story, that it cannot be called attractive. More expressive—indeed, almost painfully grim and drear, as befits the subject—is Mr. Holiday's "Burgess of Calais," from the International Exhibition of 1862. Mr. E. C. Barnes has sent two pictures—one, "The Tutor's Torment," showing the marvellous appreciation of colour and command of texture which distinguish him as much as the humour and spirit of his composition. The "rucked up" carpet in this picture, and the contrast its texture presents to the old arras on the walls and the dresses of the tiresome little pet and the women who are coaxing him, will arrest the most ordinary observation in a moment. "Fluellen, Gower, and Pistol," by the same artist, is scarcely as happy in subject or treatment. Mr. Alexander Johnston's "Rencontre in the Almada at Lima" is a capital modern story of love and jealousy; and Mr. J. Luard's "Nearing Home," a sick officer lying on the deck as his ship nears the English coast—his feeble frame moved by the sentiments of which the tender nurse beside him can scarcely fail to remind him—is a picture sure to be appreciated. Of the landscapes and sea pieces it is difficult to give an impression, but some of them are amongst the finest exhibited this year. George and J. Saul have sent a fine scene in Bishopstons Valley, lovingly painted, but a little too "painty" in surface. Mr. George Chambers keeps to scenes like the Pier at Ostend, the Day after a Gale, and Fort Rouge, Calais, and handles them like a man who knows what cloud and water should be on canvas. The David Roberts (View of Edinburgh) is full of atmosphere; and what can we say of James Holland's "Cathedral of St. Stephen's," except that it is James Holland's? "Rustall Common," by Mr. John Tennant, is a fine appreciative bit of wild and yet not rugged scenery; and Mr. Creswick's "Ballahuish" is a picture to be sat down to and studied. Mr. J. F. Cropsey, an American artist, has sent two pictures, both of them of a high order—one called the "Mellow Autumn-time"—a log bridge over a boat-strewn, amidst a wealth of wild flower and foliage; and the other "A Scene on the North River, 11 the State of New York"—a bolder and more striking work. M. Kerk-Kerk's "Rough Sea" is a vigorous bit of painting; and the "Isle of Arran," by Mr. Hering, is a fine example of that lurid and yet brilliant sky that is so difficult to make "natural." Of Mr. Dyer's, Mr. Calcott's, and Mr. Copley Fielding's five pictures we have not space to discourse, but must conclude our notice with a reference to two remarkable pictures, both of them interiors of Stafford House, by Messrs. Wingfield and Fred. Goodall, who have produced such interiors as are seldom seen on canvas, by the elaborate reproduction of the pictures by the old masters which decorate the vast rooms of the

old mansion; so that we seem to be actually inside the place and gazing upon other pictures on its walls.

## MR. MARSHALL WOOD'S "SONG OF THE SHIRT."

This sculptured rendering of the immortal poem is exhibited at the gallery of Messrs. Henry Graves, and Co., Pall-mall, and although the confusion caused by the necessary repairs of their premises in consequence of the damage done by the fire at Her Majesty's Theatre has excluded a large number of visitors who might otherwise have been expected, the appreciation of the work of art to which they invite attention can scarcely fail to increase. It would be difficult to imagine how the "Song of the Shirt,"—and particularly that one pathetic verse where the "woman in unwomanly rags" sits thinking of the cowslip and the primrose, and longing for one short hour's respite wherein she might feel as she used to feel—could be more beautifully illustrated in marble; for Mr. Wood has developed that rarest faculty of the artist, the power of truthfully rendering a painful subject without even a suggestion of the chastity or the revolting. The wonderful manner in which the form of this poor, faded, drooping woman is shown, worn down to fleshlessness, so that the sharp outline of the wrist and the elbow are apparent, while there is no sickening sense of skeletoniness (if we may be allowed the expression), is a triumph of true art. The poor pale, hollow face, too, is full of beauty: the "unwomanly rags," cotton and woollen, are worn not without a careless sense of grace, and there is more in that upward, yearning gaze than mere weariness. Altogether, the "Song of the Shirt" is a work to be seen and studied by everybody who has begun to disbelieve in modern sculpture.

## THE IRISH PEASANTRY.

THE Irish Poor Law Board, in their report just presented to Parliament, have occasion to describe the actual present condition of the great bulk of the population of Ireland who live by agriculture, and the very rapid progress that population has made, in the last eighteen years, in improved comforts as regards their food, their clothing, and their dwellings. With regard to food, the researches of Dr. Edward Smith and other scientific authorities on dietetics have established the fact that the Irish farm labourer is better fed, and at far less cost, than his representative in England. As to the clothing, the board observe that it is a fact notorious and universally recognised by all persons who can look back a period of twenty-five years that the clothing of the Irish peasantry is very superior now to the clothing of the same class before the famine, and that rags are now the exception, instead of being, as formerly, the rule. The small cost of food and the greatly advanced rate of wages (the average throughout Ireland appears to be about 7s. per week) established by the returns in the gaol dietaries report give assurance of a surplus available for clothing and other necessities exclusive of food. With regard to dwellings, more than 400,000 of the worst class of cabins are known to have disappeared from the face of the country since 1841. It is true that the class next above the lowest is still the dwelling most in use. This class, though ill lighted and much inferior in cleanliness and comfort to the English cottage, has one sanitary condition which atones for much of its apparent discomfort. The one room, which serves for both day-room and dormitory, occupies the whole length, breadth, and height of the building, and is ventilated all day by a draught from the open door to a blazing turf fire under an ample chimney. At night, even when the door is shut, there are crevices which, with the aid of the never-extinguished fire, effect a continual process of ventilation. Above all, it is not ceiled, but open to the thatched roof, through which the foul air which has been breathed is subtle enough to escape outwards. Compared with the ceiled bed-rooms of the indigent poor resident in towns, the thatched cabin of the Irish peasant is comparatively free from that most active and fruitful source of fever, the presence of a highly-vitiated air within the dwelling. Accordingly, the rate of mortality by fever in unions containing large towns is more than twice that of unions with a rural population; and nowhere is it greater than in Dublin. But the most remarkable accompaniment, and at the same time the best evidence, of the improved condition of the Irish peasantry has been their comparative freedom from epidemic disease during the last eighteen years. Looking back for a century before the great famine of 1846-9, the prevalence of fever, induced by severe privation, was an event of annual occurrence; always happening, as it did, at that time of the year when the last year's crop of potatoes was exhausted, and the coming crop was not mature. Whenever an unfavourable season, or series of seasons, arrived, this state of things was aggravated into one or more epidemics: co-extensive almost with the surface of the island, sweeping away hundreds of thousands of victims by typhus fever, smallpox, scarlatina, dysentery, and other forms of pestilence. It is not to be doubted that want of the common necessities of life, and more especially of food, was the main element in these frequent outbreaks of epidemic disease in Ireland. But the great famine has been followed by a period of eighteen years without any serious epidemic, if we except the partial visitations of cholera in 1854-5 and 1865-6, both of which passed over with far less panic and much less mortality in Ireland than they did in Great Britain. During this time, although the potato showed itself a very uncertain crop, and was occasionally much injured, there has been, under the auspices of free trade, a regular importation of Indian meal, and usually at very low prices. To this increased certainty in the supply of food, with the continued stream of emigration, the consequent advance in wages, and greater constancy of employment must be ascribed the cessation of the fatal epidemics which occurred so often in the century before the great famine. One of the worst scourges of those epidemic periods was the smallpox, from which, so recently as the year 1838, no less than 7150 deaths in Ireland are recorded, representing probably 40,000 or 50,000 cases of attack. How near we have since approached to its apparent extinction in Ireland under the Compulsory Vaccination Act of 1864 may be judged by the fact that the deaths by smallpox, which in the year 1864 were 854, were in 1867 only twenty, and that on Feb. 21, 1868, there were but five unions out of 163 in which the disease was known to exist—in two cases by recent importation from England, and in the other three cases through the mischievous agency of one itinerant inoculator.

THE REMAINS OF THE LATE SAMUEL LOVER were, on Wednesday, interred at Kensal-green Cemetery. The funeral procession consisted of a hearse and four plumed horses, three mourning coaches and pairs, followed by a large number of private carriages.

THE THREE BARRISTERS pointed out by the gossip of the Bar and the House of Commons as the probable new Judges are Mr. Huddleston, Q.C.; Sir Balliol Brett, Solicitor-General; and Sir Robert Collier, Q.C.

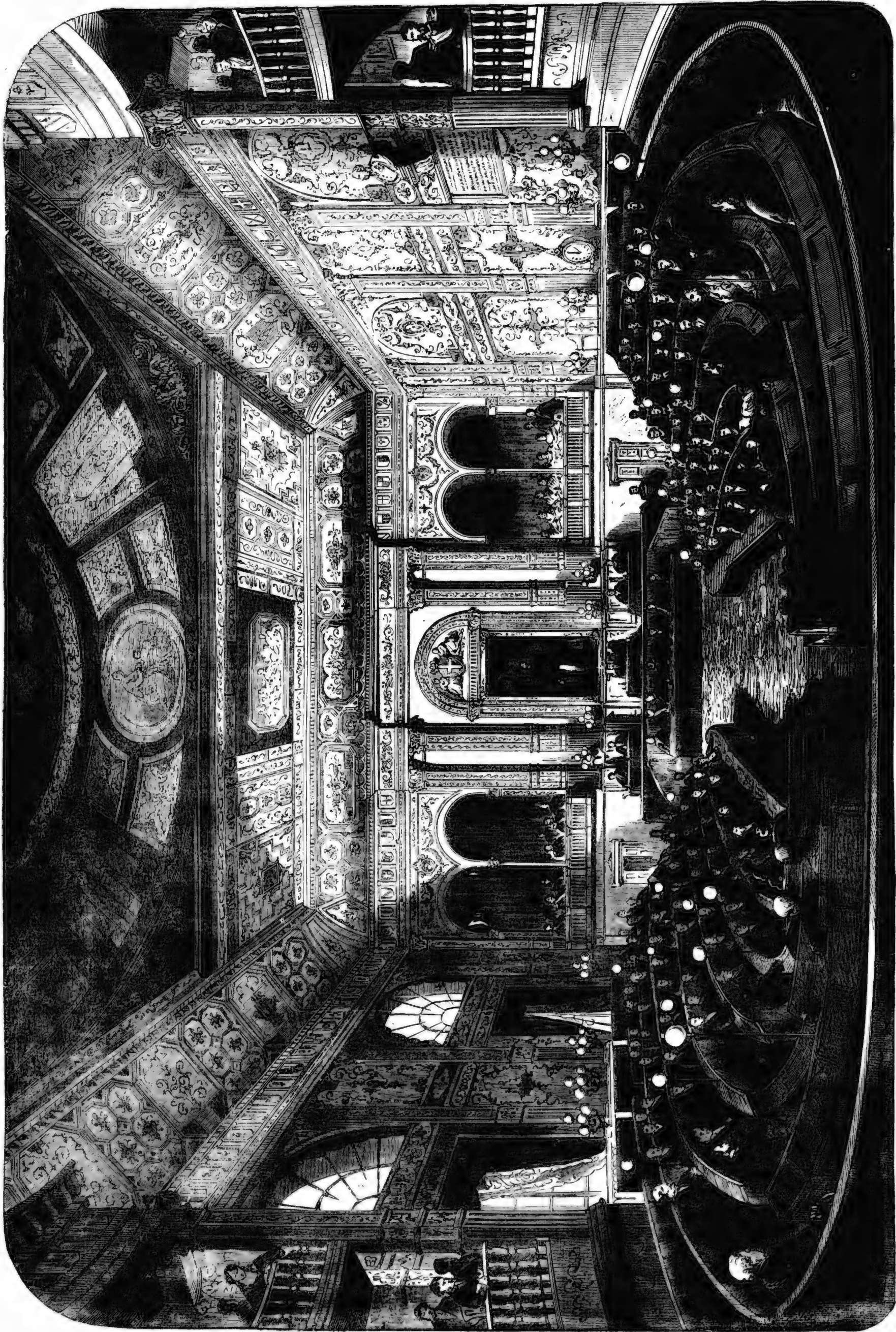
THE FIRST VACANCY in an important Crown living, since the vote of the House of Commons in reference to the Irish Church, occurred on Tuesday, by the sudden death of Dr. Kirwan, Dean of Limerick, which occurred suddenly, immediately after the reverend gentleman had taken a Turkish bath. The living is worth £1100 a year, with two residences and some patronage.

THE FARMERS OF SURREY are threatened with some inconvenience in their harvest operations, the labourers having resolved to strike on farms on which Irishmen may be employed in the mowing or reaping of corn, thus following the course adopted in the counties of Hants and Berks last year. The price paid for reaping and tying up of wheat has consequently gone up from 10s. to 14s. an acre to 16s. and 18s.—a substantial difference.

MRS. EMMA CHENT, who passed a brilliant examination some years back in science and obtained from the Faculty of Paris the degree of Bachelor in Science, came before the same body last week as a candidate for honours in mathematical science. The examination ranged over algebra, trigonometry, geometrical analysis, mechanics, the integral and differential calculus, astronomy, &c. She obtained her degree.

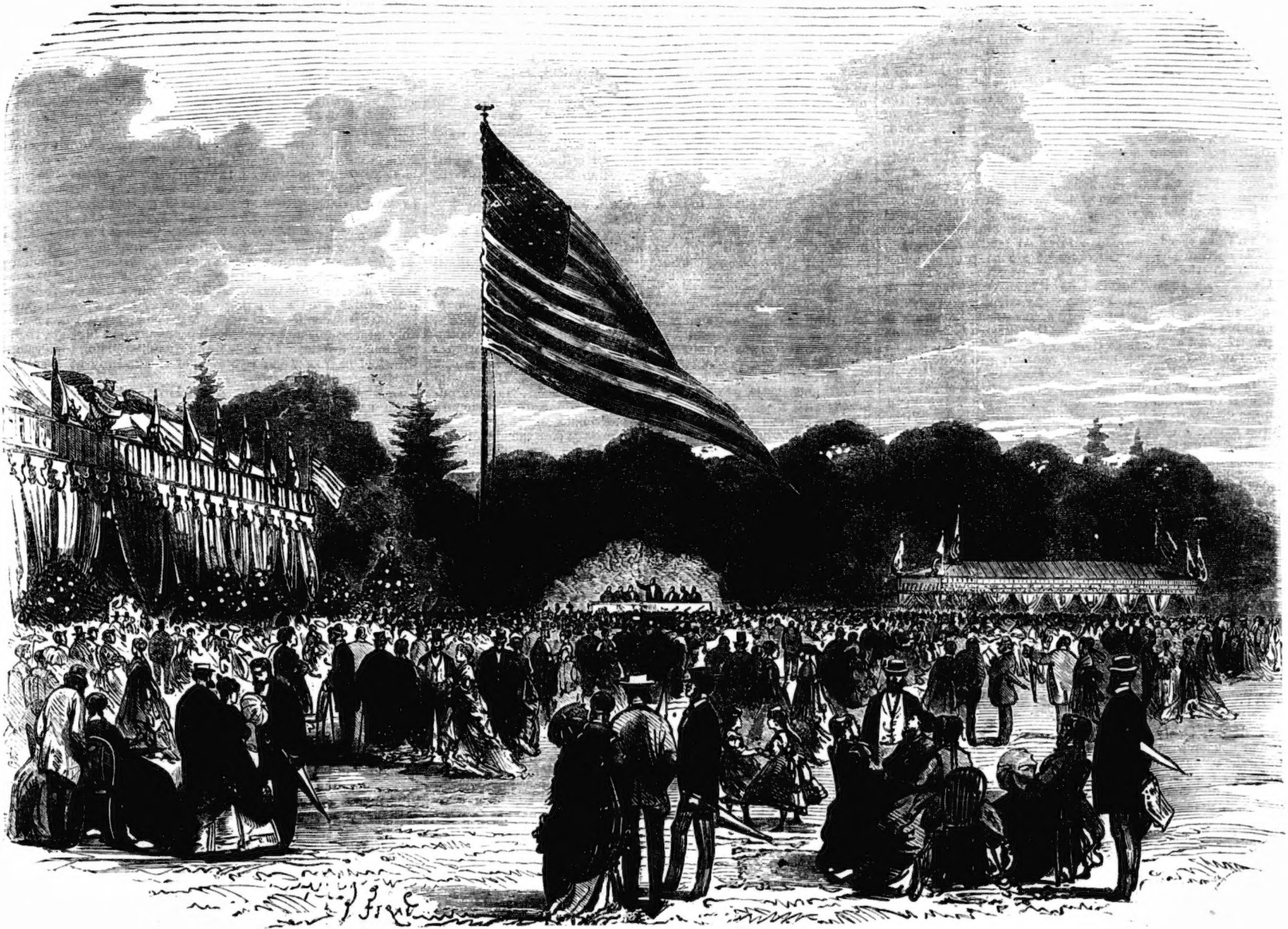
LORD AVELAND, in order that the game may be preserved more strictly on his estates in Lincolnshire and Rutland, has given notice to his tenants that they are not to plough within four feet of the hedges, in order that the thistles and grass may grow as a cover for the birds and hares; and that in future no tenant will be allowed to have any "dead fallows" on his farm, but land intended for such is to be sown either with turnip, cole, or mustard.





THE SENATE CHAMBER AT FLORENCE.





CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IN THE CATELAN GARDENS, PARIS.



"FEMALE CARRIERS AT WORK AT POMPEII."—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. SAIN.)



## THE SENATE CHAMBER AT FLORENCE.

SOME months since, during the trial of Admiral Persano, we published a view of the Senate Chamber at Florence. That engraving showed the house in one aspect, and while devoted to a purpose for which it is to be hoped it will never again be required. Our illustration this week exhibits the Chamber whilst occupied by its more legitimate tenants, the members of the Upper House of the Italian Parliament. Legislative work, it seems, is carried on in Florence just now under great difficulties: the members will not attend in their places in the Chamber of Deputies, and a House cannot be made in consequence. Nor is this much to be wondered at. The Chambers have been sitting almost continuously for nine months; the weather is excessively hot; and honourable deputies are thoroughly worn out. Not a few of them, in consequence, have betaken themselves to the provinces, without waiting for the conclusion of business, and even without obtaining leave from the President, who pleads with the truants to come back to their work, apply themselves diligently to business, and so earn a right to a holiday in a fair and legitimate manner. The financial measures of the Government are at present under consideration in the Senate, and no work is done in the Lower Chamber. During several days last week, as above mentioned, it was impossible to keep as many members together as would suffice to make a House. This seems rather inconsistent with the double desire expressed to bring the Session to a close as soon as possible, and at the same time to get through as much as possible of the important business still remaining to be done. A correspondent says:—"One cause of the slackness against which President Lanza gravely remonstrates and has issued a circular, is to be sought in the absence of Count Cambray Digny, who is obliged to attend the discussion of his financial bills in the Senate. Without him the debate on the long-winded bill relating to the mode of collecting the direct taxes can hardly proceed. It would have been well to name a Royal Commissioner to take his place while he is detained in the Upper House. So, at least, time would have been saved. Deputies will not attend for the discussion of minor business. The weather is hot, and the country is pleasant, and they go out of town or about their own affairs." Even in the Senate the work of legislation goes on but slowly. The members are languid, the benches half empty, and, as a Florence journal says, "Everybody is weary, weary, weary." If we find it oppressively hot here in London, and observe that our Parliament men are eager to "go to the country," what must be the state of things in Florence, with a cloudless sky and an Italian sun over head, and with no election contest in prospect for the deputies? It is not at all wonderful, as we think, that hon. deputies should be deaf to the appeal of President Lanza, and have small stomach for discussing the tobacco or any other bill.

## CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IN PARIS.

THE American residents in Paris are rather more demonstrative than those in London with regard to celebrating the great national anniversary of the independence of the United States. The glorious 4th of July was kept this year, with all due solemnity, in the Pré Catelan, where, although the day was showery and the evening turned out cold, a tolerably large assembly was gathered. The Pré Catelan, however, is large enough to accommodate a greater number than the two hundred people represented by the tickets disposed of by the organisers of the fête. There were, in fact, two fêtes—one during the day and the other at night; the former principally distinguished by the "children's tent," where the scions of the Parisian-American families presented a charming appearance with their pretty faces and gay, piquant costumes. A number of brilliant equipages arrived at the gardens between four and six o'clock, and the tickets admitted visitors to the buffets, where refreshments of the most delicate kind and in the greatest variety were served. At half-past six a kind of dinner-luncheon of recherché character was provided, and the 20¢ ticket included this also. Several American families deferred their visit till the evening, but the whole party made a point of attending the night fête. After the luncheon, which was taken standing, several toasts and sentiments were proposed and responded to, the most popular speaker being Mr. Chapin, a celebrated American preacher. At about half past eight the garden was brilliantly illuminated, and the magnificent dancing-saloon was then seen to perfection. Between the quadrilles and waltzes the orchestra played alternately "Hail Columbia!" and "Partant pour la Syrie." General Dix, who was present, was perhaps the lion of the evening, and generally had a little crowd of admirers round him. To the right and left of the orchestra were portraits of the Emperor of the French and Washington, while the flags of the two countries were combined to form the decorative drapery of the walls. The festival was prolonged till eleven o'clock, and at ten o'clock a splendid feu d'artifice, the bouquet of which displayed the American eagle on the star-spangled banner, bearing the motto "Pluribus unum," was exhibited as a fitting termination to the proceedings, which closed with loud and prolonged cheering.

## WORKWOMEN AT THE EXCAVATIONS OF POMPEII.

OUR illustration, which is taken from a picture painted by M. Sain for the French Fine-Art Exhibition, will serve to show not only the manner in which the works at the buried cities have been carried on, but also how easy it is for an artist to discover subjects in modern life which have an association with classical compositions. These Italian women might, in fact, be the very inhabitants of the ancient city brought to life, as the excavations reveal the buried houses and they carry away the scoria and the rubbish which is collected as the labourers ply pick and spade. The picture gained the medal at the exhibition for which it was prepared, and the harmony of composition as well as the admirable colouring it displays make it a worthy representative of the style to which M. Sain has devoted himself.

THE 3RD ADMINISTRATIVE BATTALION of the Lancashire Rifle Volunteers has recently been encamping at Lytham, Lancashire, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hargreaves. After Divine service in the camp, on Sunday week, the customary collection the corps is in the habit of making on these occasions was again appropriated to the National Lifeboat Institution, and realised the liberal sum of £20 0s. 8d. The officers and men of this battalion have altogether contributed, at the suggestion of their respected Colonel, £57 6s. to the Life-boat Institution during the past three years.

LANCASHIRE FAMINE MEMORIAL WINDOW IN GUILDHALL.—On Wednesday, at a special meeting of the Court of Common Council, convened by the Lord Mayor for the express purpose, Colonel Wilson Patten, M.P., Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, as the head of a deputation representing the operatives of the cotton districts, formally presented to the Corporation of the City of London a memorial window for Guildhall, expressive of their gratitude for the munificent subscription raised in the City for their relief during the long-protracted distress consequent upon the cotton famine, which subscription, it may be remembered, amounted in all to about £530,000. The ceremony took place in the Great Hall, at the eastern end of which the window has been placed, and it was unveiled on Wednesday for the first time. The work has been executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, who have long been eminent in that branch of art, and contains in one division figures of Lancastrian worthies; in another, those of civil personages of renown; and a third is illustrative of the rebuilding of the City by Alfred the Great, and the grant of the charter to the City by William I. At the base of the window runs the following inscription:—"The grateful memorial of the operatives of Lancashire and the cotton manufacturing districts to the Mansion House Committee, who, as almoners of a world's benevolence, distributed to them more than £500,000 during the cotton famine, 1862-5—namely, William Cubitt, Lord Mayor; William James Richard Cotton, Charles Barber, William Morley, John Armitage, Groom Howes, Francis Lyett, and Samuel Dillberg; with Lord Mayors William Anderson Rose, William Lawrence, Warren Stormes Hale; and Joseph Gibbs, secretary." A silver salver and tankard of a tasteful design, and bearing a suitable inscription, was afterwards presented to Mr. Gibbs, the secretary to the fund. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Lord Mayor entertained Colonel Wilson Patten and the rest of the deputation, with the chairman of the Guildhall Improvement Committee (Mr. Kelday), and the other members of that committee, at luncheon at the Mansion House.

## OPERA AND CONCERTS.

SIGNS of dissolution are manifesting themselves at both Opera Houses. The retreat of Mlle. Pauline Lucca to Interlachen has already been made known. Signor Mongini sang his last this season at the Crystal Palace, on the occasion of Mr. Mapleson's monster benefit—a concert, performances by two military bands, a representation of "The Marriage of Figaro," fireworks, and a few other things; and in a week or two both Opera companies will break up—not exactly for the holidays, for some of the members will recommence work forthwith. Mlle. Nilsson, for instance, goes straight to Paris, and is already announced to appear on the 3rd proximo, in M. Amboise Thomas's "Hamlet."

Mr. Gye generally winds up his season brilliantly. This year the closing attraction will be "Le Domino Noir," which is to be produced on Tuesday next.

Signor Piatti's concert in St. James's Hall has been compared to a Monday Popular Concert out of season. The incomparable violoncellist had engaged M.M. Straus, Ries, and Zerbini to assist him in a quartet; and with this quartet, in D major, one of the raciest of Haydn's, the concert worthily began. Signor Piatti played two of the movements from Romberg's Swiss Concerto, and played them as admirably as at the Philharmonic Concerts, where, some time since, he introduced the entire work. This was his only solo; but, in compensation, he joined M. Rubinstein in three pieces, for pianoforte and violoncello, composed by the last-named gentleman, the perfection of the performance making ample amends for what was wanting of melody and coherency in the music. Beethoven's great trio in B flat, played by Messrs. Rubinstein, Straus, and Piatti, was also a feature at this concert, which terminated with a performance by the pianist alone of Schumann's "Scènes Mignonnes," in which the marvellous and the grotesque were curiously intermingled. Mlle. Ennequist was the singer.

Mr. F. H. Cowen's concert at Dudley House was noticeable for the introduction of two new works by the concert-giver, a young pianist and composer of much genius and promise. These were a "fantaisie-sonate" for piano solo, and a trio for piano, violin, and violoncello. Mr. Cowen was, of course, the pianist in both works, and played admirably. His associates in the trio were Herr Straus and Signor Piatti. The concert was otherwise attractive, a rich selection of vocal music being contributed by Mlles. Nilsson, Kellogg, and Titens, Mlles. Trebelli-Bettini, Mr. Sant'ey, and other artists from Her Majesty's Opera. The accompanist was Mr. Benedict, who played, with Mr. Cowen, the splendid fantasia for two pianofortes on airs from "Der Freischütz," which Mr. Cowen had already performed at Mr. Benedict's own concert with Mlle. Arabella Goddard.

Mr. Aptommas, one of the most expert of living performers on the harp, has, with eminent success, accomplished a series of no less than twelve harp recitals. Mlle. Madeline Schiller—perhaps the most brilliant of our resident German pianists—has equally delighted her many friends and admirers with six recitals, at which what is termed "classical" music was happily, and in accordance with Mlle. Schiller's known predilection, awarded the place of honour.

The morning concert of Herr Ganz, held this year in St. George's Hall, was, in its varied and well-selected programme, one of the best concerts of the season. Herr Ganz appeared, both as a pianist and a composer, with his usual success; playing, among other things, as solos, Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" and his own transcription of "When we went a-gleaning" and "Santa Lucia."

A WOMAN, WHO HAD ACTED AS NURSE TO SICK PEOPLE, has been arrested at Geneva on a charge of poisoning successively eight persons whom she had under her care. The only explanation given for the crimes is a sort of homicidal monomania, as she does not appear to have derived any profit from the death of her victims.

A FRESH BATCH OF PEERS, it is reported, is to be created before the dissolution of Parliament takes place. Swallowing household suffrage is to be rewarded with the honour which was conferred upon the captor of Magdala. Among other names mentioned is that of Mr. R. P. Long, at present M.P. for North Wilts, which he and his father have represented for nearly half a century, and have always voted steadily with the Tories. Hence his claim to the Peerage!

THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE occurs in a paper which circulates only amongst the clergy and educated classes in Australia:—

Australians, we have a weight to bear,—  
That in this land of gold  
An act most foul, most terrible,  
It makes your blood run cold,  
To think that our beloved Prince,  
So gentle, good, and kind,  
Should in the act of benevolence  
Be shot behind.

A SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION has just occurred at Auerbach, in the Oberpfalz, Bavaria. More than 200 buildings, one hundred of them being dwelling-houses, were consumed. Three men met their deaths, and three others were severely injured. At Kuppenheim, near Rastadt, in Baden, twenty-five dwellings, with nearly everything they contained, have become the prey of the flames. The church was partially burnt, and the bells fell inside. One child was stifled, and a fireman lost his arm. The disaster is attributed to children playing with matches.

MR. ROEBUCK AND MR. HADFIELD met their constituents on Monday. From 12,000 to 15,000 persons assembled in Paradise-square, Sheffield, to hear their speeches. Mr. Roebuck gave his own version of his conduct in relation to Reform and the Irish Church. There was little, if any, difference of opinion as to Mr. Hadfield's candidature; but, although the Mayor declared the resolution in favour of Mr. Roebuck to be carried, there appears to have been a large majority opposed to him.

A CURIOUS POINT will shortly be contested in a court of law with the South-Western Company. The fare for return tickets between two contiguous stations, A. and B., and a more distant one, Z., is the same. (B. is the nearest station to Z.) A passenger who takes his ticket at B. and returns from Z. by a train that does not stop at B. is charged an excess fare from B. to A., although he was not prohibited from travelling by the train, was not allowed to get out at B., and has paid the full fare to A.

A MYSTERIOUS MURDER has been committed in the Queen's County, Ireland, the victim being a well-known poacher on the preserves of the Right Hon. J. W. Fitzpatrick, M.P. The body of the man, by name Tierney, was found in a wood with two bullets lodged in the brain. Death seemed to have been caused by a pistol, placed, when fired, close to his head. Much excitement prevailed at the inquest, the country people having taken up the idea that the shots were fired by a keeper named Holmes. Mr. Fitzpatrick has offered £100 reward for information that may lead to the arrest and conviction of the murderer.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—A treaty has lately been negotiated between Baron Hothschild and Sir John Bowring, the Plenipotentiaries respectively of the King of Sweden and Norway, and of the Supreme King of Siam, in which an article has been introduced providing that in case of any misunderstanding between the sovereigns or subjects of the two countries, the dispute shall not be settled by an appeal to arms, but by the friendly arbitration of some neutral power. We are informed that this is the fourth treaty signed by Sir John Bowring, in which this pacific clause has been made an international law. The first occasion was between the Belgian and Hawaiian Governments, in which the intervention of King Leopold induced his Ministers to accept the proposal which has been since conceded in treaties made by the Italians and the Swiss. We are glad that Sir John Bowring (who was for many years the Foreign Secretary to the Peace Society) has been enabled in his old age to give practical effect to the convictions of his youth.

FRATERNISATION OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.—The great success which has attended the adoption of the principles of arbitration upon the method of Mr. Rupert Kettle, was celebrated in Wolverhampton on Monday, after quite a jubilant fashion. Arbitration is practised in that town by the carpenters, the plasterers, and the bricklayers, but not yet by the masons and the labourers. Mr. Kettle had remembered with pleasure the annual holiday of the operatives in the French towns, and at the last arbitration meeting he suggested that some such yearly holiday should take place in Wolverhampton, masters and men and their families cordially fraternising during the festivities. The suggestion was taken up, and on Monday "the first annual demonstration in commemoration of the adoption of the principles of arbitration as a medium for the settlement of trade disputes," as the bills termed it, came off. The occasion was made a general holiday throughout the building trade there, the masters having closed their shops for the purpose. The proceedings comprised dinner, tea, and ball, music throughout the day, and the throwing open of the grounds attached to the residence of the arbitrator. At dinner the Mayor of the borough presided; and amongst the speakers were the Earl of Lichfield, Sir John Morris, Mr. Kettle, and others. Every exertion was used to make all feel at home in the somewhat novel position in which both sides found themselves, and the result was a thorough success.

## THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY'S NEW LINE BETWEEN LONDON AND BEDFORD.

ON Monday the new Midland line between London and Bedford was opened for local passenger traffic, the trains running between the Moorgate-street, Aldersgate-street, Farringdon-street, and King's-cross stations of the Metropolitan Railway and the Midland stations at Camden-road, Kentish Town, Haverstock-hill, Finchley-road, and Hendon, the latter place forming the limit of the Midland suburban system. Trains will frequently run between Hendon and Bedford, in connection with the trains to and from the north. The through traffic between London and stations beyond Bedford will continue, as heretofore, from the Great Northern terminus at King's-cross, until the partial completion of the new Midland passenger station in the Euston-road, about two months hence. The line was opened ten months ago for goods traffic as far as Camden-road, thirty heavy goods-trains running each way daily, thus thoroughly testing the solidity of the line and the efficiency of the signals. In this way the line has been gradually prepared for local passenger-traffic, which, in its turn, will lead the way for the through passenger system. Between Hendon and Camden-road there are four lines of steel rails—two for passenger-trains and two for goods-trains—all points and shunting being entirely dispensed with; thus doing away with a prolific source of accident and danger, and enabling the company to run a considerably larger number of trains, both passenger and luggage, than was possible under the old system; and thereby tending to develop the threefold character and resources of the railway as a suburban, goods, and through passenger line.

Leaving Hendon, where there is a large and commodious station, fitted up with every convenience, including lavatories in the different waiting-rooms, the railway proceeds through a series of chalk cuttings towards Mill-hill, the station so called being equidistant between that place and Edgware. Here passengers having to cross the line proceed through a spacious and well-lighted tunnel carried under the railway. At all the other stations between Hendon and Bedford the line is crossed by means of large, graceful looking bridges of iron and oak wood. Approaching Elstree, the railway—which from Hendon to St. Albans preserves a course parallel with the Watling-street of the Romans—pierces, by means of a tunnel, the low chalk hills which here divide the counties of Middlesex and Hertford. This tunnel, which is 1060 yards in length, is lofty, well ventilated, and perfectly straight and level. The scenery of the line now becomes prettily diversified—woodland, park, and meadow continually alternating in pleasing variety. After leaving Radlett the railway crosses the river Colne—dear to London anglers—midway between Colney-street and Colney House, proceeding in an almost perfectly straight direction towards St. Albans, the massive tower of the ancient abbey forming a conspicuous feature as the town is approached; and a more interesting town does not exist in the vicinity of the metropolis. The station arrangements are on a most complete scale, nothing being omitted requisite for the comfort or convenience of the passengers. As at all the other stations between Hendon and Bedford, the platforms are broad, high, and of great length. They are protected from the weather by roofs of iron and glass, supported by iron columns of light and graceful design. A very ingenious arrangement has been made at each of the stations for obviating the necessity of shunting ordinary trains while the express passes through the stations in a similar direction. Before entering the station the train slides on to a third line, which conveys it to the off side of the centre platform opposite to the main line, where the passenger, wait until the express has passed. This done, the trains line without backing, proceeds on its way, rejoining the main at a few yards' distance from the station. Thus all unnecessary delay is prevented, a considerable amount of labour saved, and a perpetual source of danger removed, very few points being used. At the same time, the signal system adopted is the most perfect yet devised, rendering mistakes on the part of the signalman almost impossible. In moving a signal all the others become locked, and can only be worked by moving the signal handle back to its place. The telegraphic apparatus in connection with the signal apparatus is of the most perfect description, and is capable of meeting every imaginable contingency, the signalman being kept constantly informed of the condition of the signals out of his sight—whether they be on or off, or whether at night the lamps be lighted or not, and so on. This, together with the circumstance that there are few curves, the average gradient being 1 in 200, will enable the Midland Company to attain the maximum of speed and run the largest number of trains with the minimum of danger or delay.

Leaving St. Albans, and obtaining a glimpse of the trees of Gorbamby, where Lord Bacon had his country residence (his remains lie interred in St. Michael's Church, St. Albans), we proceed through a richly fertile agricultural district to Harpenden, famous for its annual races. Leaving Harpenden, the Great Northern branch line to Dunstable is crossed, and subsequently the river Lea; after which Chiltern Green is reached. Here is a fine station. By means of a cutting, the line now skirts the famous park of Luton Hoo, one of the most ancient in the kingdom. It is of considerable extent, embracing no less than 1500 acres, the whole of which are devoted to pleasure purposes. The Lea, which traverses the park, is here made to assume the proportions of a good-sized lake, the beauty of which is further increased by means of several islands, adorned with shrubs and trees.

On the other side of the line is Someries, where are to be seen the remains of the ancient moated residence erected by Lord Wenlock. These remains consist of a gateway, part of a tower, and portion of the chapel. Close by is St. Ann's-hill, where the Abbots of St. Albans once possessed a summer residence, the foundations of which are yet visible. We now enter the broad amphitheatre of low hills which encircles the busy town of Luton. On the summit of almost every hill in the vicinity are traces of ancient encampments. Skeletons, coins, pottery, iron armour, weapons, and other articles have been frequently disinterred, particularly in the immediate neighbourhood of the encampments. Luton itself is a place worth visiting, especially on Monday mornings when the straw-plait market is being held.

The station is large, commodious, and fitted up with a refreshment-room. Both it and the line run almost parallel with those of the Great Northern branch railway to Dunstable. As we leave Luton we pass Dollar, or Dallow, where the Luton Baptists secretly met for religious worship during the persecuting days of Charles I. The house in which they assembled and the trapdoor in its roof are still shown. Crossing the ancient Icknield Way, the Roman road leading from Dunstable to the Wilbury Hills, we reach Leagrave, formerly Lygegrave. Near here is the source of the river Lea. It is inclosed within part of an ancient encampment, extending over about thirty acres, the surrounding ditch being both deep and broad. Further on we pass Sundon, the church of which contains several monuments of the Cheyne family; then, cutting through the Sundon chalk-hills, we approach within view of Toddington, where lived and died Lady Henrietta Wentworth, the mistress of the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth. The whole of the country through which we have been travelling is of a thoroughly English character—tasteful villas, parks, farms, villages, woods, pastures, streams, low hills, corn-fields, orchards, and other rural features constantly imparting fresh beauty and interest to the landscape. At Harlington a road leads to Eversholt and Woburn Abbey, the magnificent seat of the Bedford family. Thence, passing near Marston, where the Countess of Egin, daughter of Lord Burghley, died, in 1656, we arrive at Amptill, which at one time contained the residence of Katharine of Aragon. The beautiful oaks so abundant here add fresh zest to the prospect. Amptill-grove, consisting of four rows of linden-trees, forming a picturesque approach more than half a mile in length, testifies to the interest felt by Lord Holland in the welfare of the inhabitants. Leaving Amptill station, we pass through a lofty and perfectly straight tunnel, 750 yards in length, emerging from which we proceed round the base of Amptill Park, the seat of Lord



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